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CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

DOCUMENTS

1997

(1437-1475)

Reference Copy

Geneva

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1476
Appendix I
9 September 1997

Original: ENGLISH

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

APPENDIX I

List and texts of documents issued by the

Conference on Disarmament

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT */

APPENDIX I

List and texts of documents issued by the Conference on Disarmament

Document No.	Title
CD/1437	Letter dated 3 October 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan addressed to the President of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting the text of a statement made at Almaty on 27 September 1996 by the President of Kazakhstan concerning the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty
CD/1438 and Corr.1	Letter dated 23 October 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey addressed to the President of the Conference on Disarmament
CD/1439	Letter addressed to the President of the Conference on Disarmament from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus
CD/1440	Letter dated 9 January 1997 from the Secretary-General of the United Nations addressed to the President of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting the resolutions on disarmament and international security matters adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-first session
CD/1441	Letter dated 21 January 1997 addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the Conference on Disarmament transmitting a statement by President Clinton for the opening of the 1997 session of the Conference on Disarmament

*/ Issued as document CD/1476.

Document No.	Title
CD/1442	Letter dated 21 January 1997 addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the Conference on Disarmament transmitting a statement by the Press Secretary of the White House and a fact sheet on the United States initiatives on anti-personnel landmines
CD/1443	Draft mandate for an ad hoc committee on a ban on anti-personnel landmines submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
CD/1444	Letter dated 29 January 1997 addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference from the Permanent Representative of Austria transmitting the "Federal Law on the Ban of Anti-Personnel Mines" adopted by the Austrian Parliament
CD/1445	Japan: Proposal to appoint a special coordinator on nuclear disarmament
CD/1446	Agenda for the 1997 session
CD/1447	Letter dated 17 February 1997 addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the Conference on Disarmament transmitting a copy of a Presidential statement issued in honour of the thirtieth anniversary of the opening for signature of the Treaty of Tlatelolco
CD/1448	Letter dated 11 March 1997 addressed to the President of the Conference on Disarmament from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations Office in Geneva transmitting a letter by H.E. Zoran Thaler, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia, to the 1997 session of the Conference on Disarmament
CD/1449	Letter dated 17 March 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the Conference on Disarmament addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting a message from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation to the Conference on Disarmament on the occasion of the accession of a representative of the Russian Federation to the post of President of the Conference on Disarmament
CD/1450	Proposal on the programme of work submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran

Document No.	Title
CD/1451	Letter dated 24 March 1997 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting a press statement dated 20 February 1997 by the Minister of Defence concerning the policy of the South African Government on anti-personnel landmines and the message from President Mandela to the Fourth International NGO Conference on Landmines, Maputo, 25 to 28 February 1997
CD/1452	Proposal to appoint a special coordinator on anti-personnel landmines submitted by Chile, Finland and Poland
CD/1453	Letter dated 27 March 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting a working paper for a possible mandate of an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament
CD/1454	Letter from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the Conference on Disarmament addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting a message from the President of the Russian Federation to the first session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, and an appeal to the Conference from the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation
CD/1455	Draft mandate for an ad hoc committee on a ban on anti-personnel landmines submitted by Hungary and Japan
CD/1456	Views on the Conference on Disarmament's agenda and programme of work submitted by Canada
CD/1457 and Corr.1 in English only	Letter dated 15 May 1997 from the Permanent Representative of India addressed to the President of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting the section on "Disarmament and international security" of the Final Document adopted at the XII Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in New Delhi, 7-8 April 1997
CD/1458	Draft decision on the appointment of a special coordinator on anti-personnel landmines submitted by Australia

Document No.	Title
CD/1459	Letter dated 21 May 1997 addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference by the representative of the Federal Republic of Germany transmitting a summary of the International Expert Meeting on possible verification measures for a convention to ban anti-personnel landmines, held in Königswinter, Germany, on 24 and 25 April 1997
CD/1460	Letter dated 14 May 1997 from the Permanent Representatives of the United States of America and the Russian Federation addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting four documents signed at the joint United States-Russian summit meeting in Helsinki, Finland, on 21 March 1997, namely: a Joint Statement on Parameters on Future Reductions in Nuclear Forces, a Joint Statement by the Presidents of the United States of America and the Russian Federation Concerning the Anti-Ballistic-Missile Treaty, a Joint United States-Russian Statement on European Security and a Joint Statement on Chemical Weapons
CD/1461	Letter dated 22 May 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Canada addressed to the Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting two publications entitled "Small Arms and Light Weapons: An Annotated Bibliography" and "Anti-Personnel Land Mines Ban: An Annotated Bibliography"
CD/1462	Proposal on the programme of work submitted by the Group of 21
CD/1463	Proposed mandate for an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament submitted by Algeria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cameroon, Colombia, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kenya, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe
CD/1464	Letter dated 17 June 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Italy addressed to the President of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting a statement of the Italian Government on the policy on anti-personnel landmines issued on 13 June 1997
CD/1465	Draft decision on the appointment of a special coordinator on anti-personnel landmines submitted by Australia
CD/1466	Decision on the appointment of a Special Coordinator on anti-personnel landmines

Document No.	Title
CD/1467	Letter dated 9 July 1997 addressed to the secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament by the office of the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the Conference on Disarmament transmitting the closing document of the Brussels International Conference for a Global Ban on Anti-Personnel Mines
CD/1468	Letter dated 15 July 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Zimbabwe addressed to the President of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting a copy of the report of the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity on the issue of anti-personnel landmines and international efforts to reach a total ban, and the report on the first Continental Conference of African Experts on Landmines, held in Kempton Park, South Africa, from 19 to 21 May 1997
CD/1469	Letter dated 22 July 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Indonesia addressed to the President of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting a press release issued by the Government of Indonesia on 18 July 1997 concerning the subcritical nuclear-weapon experiment conducted by the United States Government on 2 July 1997
CD/1470	Letter dated 4 August 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Canada addressed to the Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting a publication entitled "Confidence Building in the Arms Control Process: A Transformation View" by James MacIntosh
CD/1471	Letter dated 4 August 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Canada addressed to the Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting a publication entitled "Non-Proliferation Agreements, Arrangements and Responses: Proceedings of the 1996 Canadian Non-Proliferation Workshop" by the Centre for International and Security Studies, York University, Toronto (Canada)

Document No.	Title
CD/1472	Note verbale dated 13 August 1997 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting the text of the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the decision of the Government concerning the prohibition of export of anti-personnel landmines, including re-export and transit
CD/1473	Letter dated 14 August 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Chile addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting the text of a proposal entitled: "Suggestions for updating the CD's rules of procedure", including a "Proposed draft"
CD/1474	Declaration on anti-personnel landmines submitted by Chile and Poland
CD/1475	Statement by Mexico on the question of consultations by the Special Coordinator on anti-personnel landmines in the Conference on Disarmament
CD/1476	Report of the Conference on Disarmament to the General Assembly of the United Nations

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1437
8 October 1996

ENGLISH
Original: ENGLISH/RUSSIAN

LETTER DATED 3 OCTOBER 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF KAZAKHSTAN ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF A STATEMENT MADE AT ALMATY ON 27 SEPTEMBER 1996 BY THE PRESIDENT OF KAZAKHSTAN CONCERNING THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY

I have the honour to forward to you the text of the statement of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Mr. N. Nazarbayev, concerning the Comprehensive Nuclear-test-ban Treaty made by him in Almaty on 27 September 1996.

Could you please take the appropriate steps to register this document as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and have it distributed to all member delegations and non-member States participating in the work of the Conference?

(Signed) B. UTEMURATOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Kazakhstan
to the United Nations Office
at Geneva

STATEMENT

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

N.A. NAZARBAEV

The opening for signature of the Comprehensive Nuclear-test-ban Treaty was welcomed with great satisfaction in Kazakhstan.

Five years ago, in a historic step, Kazakhstan put an end to testing of the most dangerous weapon in the history of mankind. The Semipalatinsk nuclear testing site was thus closed by decision of the head of State - a world first.

As a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Kazakhstan strictly abides by the international obligations set out in it and consistently pursues a policy of non-proliferation of other types of weapon of mass destruction. The last nuclear missile launchers on Kazakh territory were destroyed recently. In this way, the nuclear weapons which in total accounted for a quarter of the world's potential have been eliminated from our country.

The people of Kazakhstan felt the full effect of the huge destructive force of nuclear weapons. The wounds inflicted on our people by hundreds of nuclear explosions are now healing in the harsh conditions of the period of transition. The infrastructure of the former testing site at Semipalatinsk is being dismantled.

Kazakhstan is still experiencing the consequences of the 42 years of nuclear testing in the atmosphere and underground. There are hundreds of thousands of disabled and sick people and contaminated land.

The Republic of Kazakhstan is counting on help from the international community in completely eliminating the consequences of the nuclear tests for the health of the people and the environment. We consider that primary responsibility for the rehabilitation of the victims of nuclear testing should be borne by the nuclear Powers.

The Comprehensive Nuclear-test-ban Treaty is the result of positive changes on the international scene in recent years. Kazakhstan duly recognizes the enormous efforts made by many States in arriving at this Treaty. We note with satisfaction that our country too contributed to the drafting of the Treaty, one of the most important of the present century.

Nuclear weapons must never again in any circumstances be a means of destroying people and nature. The cessation of nuclear-weapon testing is, in the highest degree, the noble mission of the States which possess nuclear weapons.

(Signed) N. NAZARBAEV

Almaty, 30 September 1996

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1438/Corr.1
17 December 1996

Original : ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 23 OCTOBER 1996 ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY

Corrigendum

The title of document CD/1438 of 25 November 1996 should read as above, in accordance with established practice of the United Nations.

GE.96-64814

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1438
25 November 1996

Original: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 23 OCTOBER 1996 ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY TRANSMITTING A LETTER FROM H.E. RAUF R. DENKTAŞ, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN CYPRUS, CONCERNING THE REQUEST OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

I have the honour to forward herewith a letter from H.E. Mr. Rauf R. Denktaş, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, addressed to you concerning the request for the admission of "the Republic of Cyprus" as full member of the Conference on Disarmament.

I should be grateful if this letter together with its annex could be distributed among all member delegations of the Conference and non-member States participating in its work.

(Signed): Tugay Uluçevik
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

GE 96-64421

TURKISH REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN CYPRUS

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

(Lefkoşa via Mersin-10, Turkey)

September 23, 1996

Your Excellency,

It has come to my attention that the Greek Cypriot administration of Southern Cyprus, which purports to be the "Government of the Republic of Cyprus" has submitted a request to become a full member of the Conference on Disarmament on September 2, 1996. In this connection, I would like to bring to your kind attention the following:

The Republic of Cyprus was founded in 1960 in accordance with the international Cyprus treaties by the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot peoples when the British Government relinquished the sovereignty of Cyprus to the partnership Republic composed of the aforesaid politically equal partners, "acting conjointly and in partnership". The legitimacy of the 1960 Republic lay in the joint presence and effective participation of both sides in all the organs of the state. None of the parties had the right to rule the other, nor could any of them assume the right to be the government of the whole island in the absence of the other in all the organs of the state and its Government. Indeed, the raison d'être of the founding of this partnership Republic was that one Community would not dominate the other. The relationship of the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot partners was not that of a majority and minority, but, as underlined by the UN Secretary-General in his report of March 8, 1990 to the Security Council, of political equality of the two component units or communities.

./...

H.E. Mr. Ludwik Dembinski
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Poland
President of the Conference on Disarmament
Bureau D. 615
Palais Des Nations,
1211 Geneve 10

This partnership "Republic of Cyprus" established by the 1960 Agreements was destroyed by the Greek Cypriot partner's armed onslaught on the Turkish Cypriot partner in December 1963 when all Turkish Cypriot elements in all the state organs were forcefully ejected. The Turkish Cypriot partner did not accept this attempted take-over of the bi-national partnership state by the Greek Cypriot side and, through its national resistance, prevented the Greek Cypriot side from extending its authority over the Turkish Cypriot partner. In consequence, since December 1963 there has not been a joint administration in the island. Each side has ruled itself while the Greek Cypriot side has continued with the false pretence that it is "the legitimate Government of Cyprus".

Ever since, the Greek Cypriot side has been trying, without success, through a variety of ways to extend its authority over the whole island. One of the methods resorted to is, appearance at all international organs as "the representative of Cyprus" when they are only the representative of the Greek Cypriot side.

The Greek Cypriot administration of Southern Cyprus, therefore, has no legal, or moral right to claim to represent anyone except the Greek Cypriot people, and the said administration, under the pretentious and self-assumed title of the "Government of Cyprus" has no legal or moral right nor the jurisdiction to represent or act on behalf of the Turkish Cypriot people, whose sole, legitimate representatives are those elected under and by virtue of the Constitution of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

In view of the above, anything said or done by the Greek Cypriot administration of Southern Cyprus, in its purported capacity as the "Government of the Republic of Cyprus", will be null and void, and will not, in any way, be binding on the Turkish Cypriot people or the island as a whole.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Rauf R. Denktaş
President

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1439
13 December 1996

Original: ENGLISH

LETTER ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CYPRUS CONCERNING THE LETTER FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY (DOCUMENT CD/1438)

I wish to refer to the letter dated 23 October 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey which was circulated under reference CD/1438 of 25 November 1996 and to state the following:

The Turkish Permanent Representative while transmitting a letter by the Leader of the Turkish Cypriot community, Mr. Denktas, attributes to him titles that are not accepted by anyone.

The so-called "TRNC" is an illegal entity created and maintained by the Turkish invasion and continuing occupation of part of the territory of Cyprus.

The purported declaration of "TRNC" has been condemned by the international community, all international organizations and more specifically by resolutions of the Security Council, No. 541/1983 and No. 550/1984 which, inter alia, called upon all States and international organizations not to recognize or facilitate in any way this secessionist entity. The position of the international community is consistent with the norms of International Law which do not condone or accept faits-accomplis created by the use of force, in accordance with the legal norm "ex injuria lex non oritur".

As to the contents of the letter, it is obvious that Mr. Denktas repeats, once more, his far-fetched misconceptions about past developments in Cyprus, which have long been repudiated and are inconsistent with facts and reality.

The Government of the Republic of Cyprus, recognized by all States, except the occupying power, and by all international organizations is a positive factor and actor in the international scene with a contribution far exceeding its size. The Republic of Cyprus, by its application to participate as a full member in the Conference on Disarmament, expresses its will to contribute positively to the work of the Conference in accordance with its long held position of support for general and complete disarmament. A specific expression of this position is the proposal of the President of the Republic of Cyprus H.E. Mr. Glafkos Clerides for the demilitarization of the Republic of Cyprus.

The Cyprus Government contrary to the schemes of Turkey, is recognized as the representative of the people of Cyprus as a whole. Moreover in accordance with the Geneva Conventions and international law the Republic of Cyprus has sovereignty over the whole of its territory, a fact that cannot be changed by the presence of the Turkish occupation troops.

Mr. Denktas instead of being an obstructionist force to the solution of the Cyprus problem should abandon his negative stance and cooperate in good faith towards finding a just and functional settlement of the Cyprus problem, based on United Nations Resolutions. It is widely recognized that this settlement, which would bring about peace and prosperity to the people of Cyprus is undermined as a result of the Turkish attitude. In this respect, let me cite paragraph 53 of the Report of the Secretary General of the United Nations of 30 May 1994 (Doc. 5.19.94.629): "For the present, the Security Council finds itself faced with an already familiar scenario: the absence of agreement due essentially to a lack of political will on the Turkish Cypriot side".

I should be grateful if this letter could be distributed among all member delegations of the Conference and non-member States participating in its work.

(Signed): Sotos Zackheos
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1440
13 January 1997

Original: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 9 JANUARY 1997 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE RESOLUTIONS ON DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY MATTERS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS FIFTY-FIRST SESSION

I have the honour to transmit herewith those resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-first session, which make specific reference to the Conference on Disarmament.

For the information of the Conference, I also have the honour to transmit herewith other resolutions, dealing with or related to disarmament and international security matters, which were adopted by the General Assembly at its forty-first session.

(Signed) Kofi A. Annan

GE.97-60047 (E)

Annex

I. Resolutions that make specific reference to the Conference on Disarmament

At its fifty-first session, the General Assembly adopted the following resolutions that make specific reference to the Conference on Disarmament:

51/37 "Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapon of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons" (operative paras. 2 and 5)

51/43 "Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use of threat of use of nuclear weapons" (operative paras. 2, 4 and 5)

51/44 "Prevention of an arms race in outer space" (operative paras. 5, 6 and 8)

51/45 E "Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of the agreements on disarmament and arms control" (operative paras. 1 and 2)

51/45 H "Transparency in armaments" (operative para. 5)

51/45 I "Bilateral nuclear arms negotiations and nuclear disarmament" (operative paras. 5 and 6)

51/45 J "Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes" (operative paras. 1, 4 and 5)

51/45 K "Regional disarmament" (operative para. 1)

51/45 O "Nuclear disarmament" (operative paras. 5 and 6)

51/45 Q "Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels" (operative para. 2)

51/46 D "Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons" (operative paras. 1 and 2)

51/47 A "Expansion of the membership of the Conference on Disarmament" (operative paras. 1 and 2)

51/47 B "Report of the Disarmament Commission" (operative para. 5)

51/47 C "Report of the Conference on Disarmament" (operative paras. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8)

II. Other resolutions dealing with disarmament and international security matters

At the fifty-first session, the General Assembly also adopted the following resolutions dealing with disarmament and international security matters:

51/38 "Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures".

51/39 "The role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament".

51/40 "The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields".

51/41 "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East".

51/42 "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia".

51/45 A "Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons: 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its Preparatory Committee".

51/45 B "The nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas".

51/45 C "Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament".

51/45 D "Relationship between disarmament and development".

51/45 F "Measures to curb the illicit transfer and use of conventional arms".

51/45 G "Nuclear disarmament with a view to the ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons".

51/45 L "Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them".

51/45 M "Advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons".

51/45 N "Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures".

51/45 P "Measures to uphold the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol".

51/45 R "Bilateral nuclear arms negotiations and nuclear disarmament".

51/45 S "An international agreement to ban anti-personnel land-mines".

51/45 T "Status of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction".

51/46 A "United Nations Disarmament Information Programme".

51/46 B "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific".

51/46 C "Regional confidence-building measures".

51/46 E "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa".

51/46 F "United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services".

51/48 "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East".

51/49 "Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects".

51/50 "Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region".

51/51 "Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace".

51/52 "Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)".

51/53 "African Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)".

51/54 "Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction".

51/55 "The maintenance of international security - prevention of the violent disintegration of States".

In addition, the General Assembly also adopted two decisions on disarmament and international security issues, entitled "Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and vehicles for their delivery in all its aspects" and "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security" respectively.

All documents and records on disarmament and international security items were distributed during the fifty-first session of the General Assembly to all Members of the United Nations, including all members of the Conference on Disarmament.

UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/51/37
7 January 1997

Fifty-first session
Agenda item 60

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the First Committee (A/51/566/Add.1)]

51/37. Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons,

Taking note of paragraph 77 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[1]

Determined to prevent the emergence of new types of weapons of mass destruction that have characteristics comparable in destructive effect to those of weapons of mass destruction identified in the definition of weapons of mass destruction adopted by the United Nations in 1948,[2]

Noting that the item entitled "New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: radiological weapons" was considered in the Conference on Disarmament during its 1994, 1995 and 1996 sessions,

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[1] Resolution S-10/2.

[2] The definition was adopted by the Commission for Conventional Armaments (see S/C.3/32/Rev.1).

Also noting the desirability of keeping the matter under review, as appropriate,

1. Reaffirms that effective measures should be taken to prevent the emergence of new types of weapons of mass destruction;

2. Requests the Conference on Disarmament, without prejudice to further overview of its agenda, to keep the matter under review, as appropriate, with a view to making, when necessary, recommendations on undertaking specific negotiations on identified types of such weapons;

3. Calls upon all States, immediately following any recommendations of the Conference on Disarmament, to give favourable consideration to those recommendations;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Conference on Disarmament all documents relating to the consideration of this item by the General Assembly at its fifty-first session;

5. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to report the results of any consideration of the matter in its annual reports to the General Assembly;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/51/38
7 January 1997

Fifty-first session
Agenda item 61

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the First Committee (A/51/566/Add.2)]

51/38. Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/66 of 15 December 1994 on objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures,

Also recalling its resolution 35/142 B of 12 December 1980, which introduced the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures, and its resolution 48/62 of 16 December 1993, calling upon all Member States to participate in it, and its resolution 47/54 B of 9 December 1992, endorsing the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters and inviting Member States to provide relevant information to the Secretary-General regarding their implementation,

Noting that since then national reports on military expenditures and on the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters have been submitted by a number of Member States belonging to different geographic regions,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General [1] on ways and means to implement the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters, including, in particular, how to strengthen and broaden participation in the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures,

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[1] A/51/179.

Expressing its appreciation to the Secretary-General for providing Member States with the reports on military expenditures in standardized form reported by States and on guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters,

Welcoming the decision of many Member States to exchange and to publish information annually on their military budgets and to implement the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters, as appropriate,

Reaffirming its firm conviction that a better flow of objective information on military matters can help to relieve international tension and contribute to the building of confidence among States and to the conclusion of concrete disarmament agreements,

Convinced that the improvement of international relations forms a sound basis for promoting further openness and transparency in all military matters,

Recalling that the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters recommended certain areas for further consideration, such as the improvement of the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures,

1. Recommends the guidelines and recommendations for objective information on military matters to all Member States for implementation, fully taking into account specific political, military and other conditions prevailing in a region, on the basis of initiatives and with the agreement of the States of the region concerned;

2. Calls upon all Member States to report annually, by 30 April, to the Secretary-General their military expenditures for the latest fiscal year for which data are available, using, for the time being, the reporting instrument as recommended in its resolution 35/142 B;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to circulate annually the reports on military expenditures as received from Member States;

4. Also requests the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States and make recommendations on necessary changes to the content and structure of the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures in order to strengthen and broaden participation, and to submit a report within existing resources on the subject to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

5. Calls upon all Member States, in time for the deliberation by the General Assembly at its fifty-second session, to provide the Secretary-General with their views on ways and means to strengthen and broaden participation in the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures, including necessary changes to its content and structure;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/51/39
7 January 1997

Fifty-first session
Agenda item 63

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the First Committee (A/51/566/Add.3)]

51/39. The role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that scientific and technological developments can have both civilian and military applications and that progress in science and technology for civilian applications needs to be maintained and encouraged,

Concerned that military applications of scientific and technological developments can contribute significantly to the improvement and upgrading of weapons of mass destruction,

Aware of the need to follow closely the scientific and technological developments that may have a negative impact on international security and disarmament, and to channel scientific and technological developments for beneficial purposes,

Cognizant that the international transfers of dual-use as well as high-technology products, services and know-how for peaceful purposes are important for the economic and social development of States,

Expressing concern over the growing proliferation of ad hoc and exclusive export control regimes and arrangements for dual-use goods and technologies,

Recalling that the Final Document of the Eleventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Cartagena de Indias,

Colombia, from 18 to 20 October 1995,[1] noted that restrictions being placed on access to technology through the imposition of non-transparent ad hoc export control regimes with exclusive membership tended to impede the economi and social development of developing countries,

Emphasizing that internationally negotiated guidelines for the transfer of high technology with military applications should take into account the legitimate defence requirements of all States and requirements for the maintenance of international peace and security, while ensuring that access t high-technology products and services and know-how for peaceful purposes is not denied,

1. Affirms that scientific and technological progress should be used for the benefit of all mankind to promote the sustainable economic and social development of all States and to safeguard international security, and that international cooperation in the use of science and technology through the transfer and exchange of technological know-how for peaceful purposes should be promoted;

2. Invites Member States to undertake additional efforts to apply science and technology for disarmament-related purposes and to make disarmament-related technologies available to interested States;

3. Urges Member States to undertake multilateral negotiations with the participation of all interested States in order to establish universally acceptable, non-discriminatory guidelines for international transfers of dual-use goods and technologies and high technology with military applications;

4. Recalls the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Scientific and technological developments and their impact on international security",[2] and requests the Secretary-General to update and further develop that report in order to evaluate the impact of recent scientific and technological developments, especially those which have potential military applications, and to submit a report to the General Assembly no later than at its fifty-third session;

5. Encourages United Nations bodies to contribute, within existing mandates, to promoting the application of science and technology for peaceful purposes;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "The role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

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[1] A/50/752-S/1995/1035, annex III; see Official Records of the Security Council, Fiftieth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1995, document S/1995/1035.

[2] A/45/568.

UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/51/40
7 January 1997

Fifty-first session
Agenda item 64

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the First Committee (A/51/566/Add.4)]

51/40. The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the subject of the role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields, in which, inter alia, it recognized that scientific and technological developments could have both civilian and military applications and that progress in science and technology for civilian applications needed to be maintained and encouraged,

1. Invites Member States to enhance bilateral and multilateral dialogue on the role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields, with a view to:

(a) Ensuring implementation of relevant commitments already undertaken under international legal instruments;

(b) Exploring ways and means of further developing international legal rules on transfers of high technology with military applications;

2. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled "The role of science and technology in the context of international security, disarmament and other related fields".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

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UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/51/41
7 January 1997

Fifty-first session
Agenda item 67

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the First Committee (A/51/566/Add.7)]

51/41. Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3263 (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, 3474 (XXX) of 11 December 1975, 31/71 of 10 December 1976, 32/82 of 12 December 1977, 33/64 of 14 December 1978, 34/77 of 11 December 1979, 35/147 of 12 December 1980, 36/87 A and B of 9 December 1981, 37/75 of 9 December 1982, 38/64 of 15 December 1983, 39/54 of 12 December 1984, 40/82 of 12 December 1985, 41/48 of 3 December 1986, 42/28 of 30 November 1987, 43/65 of 7 December 1988, 44/108 of 15 December 1989, 45/52 of 4 December 1990, 46/30 of 6 December 1991, 47/48 of 9 December 1992, 48/71 of 16 December 1993, 49/71 of 15 December 1994 and 50/66 of 12 December 1995 on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East,

Recalling also the recommendations for the establishment of such a zone in the Middle East consistent with paragraphs 60 to 63, and in particular paragraph 63 (d), of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[*]

Emphasizing the basic provisions of the above-mentioned resolutions, which call upon all parties directly concerned to consider taking the practical and urgent steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East and, pending and during the establishment of such a zone, to declare solemnly that they will refrain, on a reciprocal basis, from producing, acquiring or in any other way possessing nuclear weapons and nuclear explosive devices and from permitting the stationing of nuclear weapons on their territory by any third

[*] Resolution S-10/2.

party, to agree to place their nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards and to declare their support for the establishment of the zone and to deposit such declarations with the Security Council for consideration, as appropriate,

Reaffirming the inalienable right of all States to acquire and develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes,

Emphasizing the need for appropriate measures on the question of the prohibition of military attacks on nuclear facilities,

Bearing in mind the consensus reached by the General Assembly since its thirty-fifth session that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East would greatly enhance international peace and security,

Desirous of building on that consensus so that substantial progress can be made towards establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East,

Welcoming all initiatives leading to general and complete disarmament, including in the region of the Middle East, and in particular on the establishment therein of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons,

Noting the peace negotiations in the Middle East, which should be of a comprehensive nature and represent an appropriate framework for the peaceful settlement of contentious issues in the region,

Recognizing the importance of credible regional security, including the establishment of a mutually verifiable nuclear-weapon-free zone,

Emphasizing the essential role of the United Nations in the establishment of a mutually verifiable nuclear-weapon-free zone,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 50/66,[2]

1. Urges all parties directly concerned to consider seriously taking the practical and urgent steps required for the implementation of the proposal to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, and, as a means of promoting this objective, invites the countries concerned to adhere to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons;[3]

2. Calls upon all countries of the region that have not done so, pending the establishment of the zone, to agree to place all their nuclear activities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards;

3. Takes note of resolution GC(40)RES/22, adopted on 20 September 1996 by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its fortieth regular session, concerning the application of Agency safeguards in the Middle East;

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[2] A/51/286 and Add.1.

[3] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 729, No. 10485.

4. Notes the importance of the ongoing bilateral Middle East peace negotiations and the activities of the multilateral Working Group on Arms Control and Regional Security in promoting mutual confidence and security in the Middle East, including the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone;

5. Invites all countries of the region, pending the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East, to declare their support for establishing such a zone, consistent with paragraph 63 (d) of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[3] and to deposit those declarations with the Security Council;

6. Also invites those countries, pending the establishment of the zone, not to develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or permit the stationing on their territories, or territories under their control, of nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices;

7. Invites the nuclear-weapon States and all other States to render their assistance in the establishment of the zone and at the same time to refrain from any action that runs counter to both the letter and the spirit of the present resolution;

8. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;[4]

9. Invites all parties to consider the appropriate means that may contribute towards the goal of general and complete disarmament and the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the region of the Middle East;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to pursue consultations with the States of the region and other concerned States, in accordance with paragraph 7 of resolution 46/30 and taking into account the evolving situation in the region, and to seek from those States their views on the measures outlined in chapters III and IV of the study annexed to his report[4] or other relevant measures, in order to move towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East;

11. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

12. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

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[4] A/45/435.

UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/51/42
7 January 1997

Fifty-first session
Agenda item 68

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the First Committee (A/51/566/Add.8)]

51/42. Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 3265 B (XXIX) of 9 December 1974, 3476 B (XXX) of 11 December 1975, 31/73 of 10 December 1976, 32/83 of 12 December 1977, 33/65 of 14 December 1978, 34/78 of 11 December 1979, 35/148 of 12 December 1980, 36/88 of 9 December 1981, 37/76 of 9 December 1982, 38/65 of 15 December 1983, 39/55 of 12 December 1984, 40/83 of 12 December 1985, 41/49 of 3 December 1986, 42/29 of 30 November 1987, 43/66 of 7 December 1988, 44/109 of 15 December 1989, 45/53 of 4 December 1990, 46/31 of 6 December 1991, 47/49 of 9 December 1992, 48/72 of 16 December 1993, 49/72 of 15 December 1994 and 50/67 of 12 December 1995 concerning the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia,

Reiterating its conviction that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in various regions of the world is one of the measures that can contribute effectively to the objectives of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and general and complete disarmament,

Believing that the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia, as in other regions, will assist in the strengthening of the security of the States of the region against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Taking note with appreciation of the declarations issued at the highest level by the Governments of South Asian States that are developing their peaceful nuclear programmes, reaffirming their undertaking not to acquire or manufacture nuclear weapons and to devote their nuclear programmes exclusively to the economic and social advancement of their peoples,

Welcoming the proposal for the conclusion of a bilateral or regional nuclear-test-ban agreement in South Asia,

Noting the proposal to convene, under the auspices of the United Nations, a conference on nuclear non-proliferation in South Asia as soon as possible, with the participation of the regional and other concerned States,

Noting the proposal to hold consultations among five nations with a view to ensuring nuclear non-proliferation in the region,

Considering that the eventual participation of other States, as appropriate, in this process could be useful,

Bearing in mind the provisions of paragraphs 60 to 63 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly[1] regarding the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, including in the region of South Asia,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[2]

1. Reaffirms its endorsement, in principle, of the concept of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia;

2. Urges once again the States of South Asia to continue to make all possible efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia and to refrain, in the meantime, from any action contrary to that objective;

3. Welcomes the support of all the five nuclear-weapon States for this proposal, and calls upon them to extend the necessary cooperation in the efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to communicate with the States of the region and other concerned States in order to ascertain their views on the issue and to promote consultations among them with a view to exploring the best possibilities of furthering the efforts for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia;

5. Also requests the Secretary-General to report on the subject to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

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[1] Resolution S-10/2.

[2] A/51/176.

UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/51/43
7 January 1997

Fifty-first session
Agenda item 69

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the First Committee (A/51/566/Add.9)]

51/43. Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the need to allay the legitimate concern of the States of the world with regard to ensuring lasting security for their peoples,

Convinced that nuclear weapons pose the greatest threat to mankind and to the survival of civilization,

Welcoming the progress achieved in recent years in both nuclear and conventional disarmament,

Noting that, despite recent progress in the field of nuclear disarmament, further efforts are necessary towards the achievement of general and complete disarmament under effective international control,

Convinced that nuclear disarmament and the complete elimination of nuclear weapons are essential to remove the danger of nuclear war,

Determined strictly to abide by the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations on the non-use of force or threat of force,

Recognizing that the independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of non-nuclear-weapon States need to be safeguarded against the use or threat of use of force, including the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Considering that, until nuclear disarmament is achieved on a universal basis, it is imperative for the international community to develop effective

measures and arrangements to ensure the security of non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons from any quarter,

Recognizing that effective measures and arrangements to assure the non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons can contribute positively to the prevention of the spread of nuclear weapons,

Bearing in mind paragraph 59 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[1] the first special session devoted to disarmament, in which it urged the nuclear-weapon States to pursue efforts to conclude, as appropriate, effective arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, and desirous of promoting the implementation of the relevant provisions of the Final Document,

Recalling the relevant parts of the special report of the Committee on Disarmament[2] submitted to the General Assembly at its twelfth special session,[3] the second special session devoted to disarmament, and of the special report of the Conference on Disarmament submitted to the Assembly at its fifteenth special session,[4] the third special session devoted to disarmament, as well as the report of the Conference on its 1992 session,[5]

Recalling also paragraph 12 of the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade, contained in the annex to its resolution 35/46 of 3 December 1980, which states, inter alia, that all efforts should be exerted by the Committee on Disarmament urgently to negotiate with a view to reaching agreement on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Noting the in-depth negotiations undertaken in the Conference on Disarmament and its Ad Hoc Committee on Effective International Arrangements to Assure Non-Nuclear-Weapon States against the Use or Threat of Use of Nuclear Weapons,[6] with a view to reaching agreement on this item,

Taking note of the proposals submitted under that item in the Conference on Disarmament, including the drafts of an international convention,

Taking note also of the relevant decision of the Eleventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Cartagena de

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[1] Resolution S-10/2.

[2] The Committee on Disarmament was redesignated the Conference on Disarmament as from 7 February 1984.

[3] Official Records of the General Assembly, Twelfth Special Session, Supplement No. 2 (A/S-12/2), sect. III.C.

[4] Ibid., Fifteenth Special Session, Supplement No. 2 (A/S-15/2), sect. III.F.

[5] Ibid., Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/47/27), sect. III.F.

[6] Ibid., Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/48/27), para. 39.

Indias, Colombia, from 18 to 20 October 1995,[7] and also of the decision adopted by the Tenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Jakarta from 1 to 6 September 1992,[8] as well as the relevant recommendations of the Organization of the Islamic Conference reiterated in the Final Communiqué of the Twentieth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held at Istanbul from 4 to 8 August 1991,[9] calling upon the Conference on Disarmament to reach an urgent agreement on an international convention to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Taking note further of the unilateral declarations made by all nuclear-weapon States on their policies of non-use or non-threat of use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States,

Noting the support expressed in the Conference on Disarmament and in the General Assembly for the elaboration of an international convention to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, as well as the difficulties pointed out in evolving a common approach acceptable to all,

Noting also the greater willingness to overcome the difficulties encountered in previous years,

Taking note of Security Council resolution 984 (1995) of 11 April 1995 and the views expressed on it,

Recalling its relevant resolutions adopted in previous years, in particular resolutions 45/54 of 4 December 1990, 46/32 of 6 December 1991, 47/50 of 9 December 1992, 48/73 of 16 December 1993, 49/73 of 15 December 1994 and 50/68 of 12 December 1995,

1. Reaffirms the urgent need to reach an early agreement on effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;

2. Notes with satisfaction that in the Conference on Disarmament there is no objection, in principle, to the idea of an international convention to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, although the difficulties as regards evolving a common approach acceptable to all have also been pointed out;

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[7] See A/50/752-S/1995/1035, annex III; see Official Records of the Security Council, Fiftieth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1995, document S/1995/1035.

[8] See A/47/675-S/24816, annex, chap. II, para. 47; see Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-seventh Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1992, document S/24816.

[9] See A/46/486-S/23055, annex I; see Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-sixth Year, Supplement for July, August and September 1991, document S/23055.

3. Appeals to all States, especially the nuclear-weapon States, to work actively towards an early agreement on a common approach and, in particular, on a common formula that could be included in an international instrument of a legally binding character;

4. Recommends that further intensive efforts should be devoted to the search for such a common approach or common formula and that the various alternative approaches, including, in particular, those considered in the Conference on Disarmament, should be further explored in order to overcome the difficulties;

5. Recommends also that the Conference on Disarmament should actively continue intensive negotiations with a view to reaching early agreement and concluding effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, taking into account the widespread support for the conclusion of an international convention and giving consideration to any other proposals designed to secure the same objective;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Conclusion of effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/51/44
7 January 1997

Fifty-first session
Agenda item 70

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the First Committee (A/51/566/Add.10)]

51/44. Prevention of an arms race in outer space

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the common interest of all mankind in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes,

Reaffirming the will of all States that the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, shall be for peaceful purposes and shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interest of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development,

Reaffirming also provisions of articles III and IV of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies,[1]

Recalling the obligation of all States to observe the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations regarding the use or threat of use of force in their international relations, including in their space activities,

Reaffirming paragraph 80 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[2] in which it is stated that in order to prevent an arms race in outer space further measures should be taken and appropriate international negotiations held in accordance with the spirit of the Treaty,

Recalling its previous resolutions on this issue and taking note of the proposals submitted to the General Assembly at its tenth special session and

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[1] Resolution 2222 (XXI), annex.

[2] Resolution S-10/2.

at its regular sessions, and of the recommendations made to the competent organs of the United Nations and to the Conference on Disarmament,

Recognizing that prevention of an arms race in outer space would avert a grave danger for international peace and security,

Emphasizing the paramount importance of strict compliance with existing arms limitation and disarmament agreements relevant to outer space, including bilateral agreements, and with the existing legal regime concerning the use of outer space,

Considering that wide participation in the legal regime applicable to outer space could contribute to enhancing its effectiveness,

Noting that the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, taking into account its previous efforts since its establishment in 1985 and seeking to enhance its functioning in qualitative terms, continued the examination and identification of various issues, existing agreements and existing proposals, as well as future initiatives relevant to the prevention of an arms race in outer space,[1] and that this contributed to a better understanding of a number of problems and to a clearer perception of the various positions,

Regretting the inability of the Conference on Disarmament to re-establish the Ad Hoc Committee in 1996,

Emphasizing the mutually complementary nature of bilateral and multilateral efforts in the field of preventing an arms race in outer space, and hoping that concrete results will emerge from those efforts as soon as possible,

Convinced that further measures should be examined in the search for effective and verifiable bilateral and multilateral agreements in order to prevent an arms race in outer space, including the weaponization of outer space,

Stressing that the growing use of outer space increases the need for greater transparency and better information on the part of the international community,

Recalling in this context its previous resolutions, in particular resolutions 45/55 B of 4 December 1990, 47/51 of 9 December 1992 and 48/74 A of 16 December 1993, in which, inter alia, it reaffirmed the importance of confidence-building measures as means conducive to ensuring the attainment of the objective of the prevention of an arms race in outer space,

Conscious of the benefits of confidence- and security-building measures in the military field,

Recognizing that the conclusion of an international agreement or agreements to prevent an arms race in outer space remains the fundamental task

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[1] Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/49/27), sect. III.D (para. 5 of the quoted text).

of the Ad Hoc Committee and that the concrete proposals on confidence-building measures could form an integral part of such agreements,

1. Reaffirms the importance and urgency of preventing an arms race in outer space, and the readiness of all States to contribute to that common objective, in conformity with the provisions of the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies;

2. Reaffirms its recognition, as stated in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space, that the legal regime applicable to outer space by itself does not guarantee the prevention of an arms race in outer space, that this legal regime plays a significant role in the prevention of an arms race in that environment, that there is a need to consolidate and reinforce that regime and enhance its effectiveness, and that it is important strictly to comply with existing agreements, both bilateral and multilateral;

3. Emphasizes the necessity of further measures with appropriate and effective provisions for verification to prevent an arms race in outer space;

4. Calls upon all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to contribute actively to the objective of the peaceful use of outer space and of the prevention of an arms race in outer space and to refrain from actions contrary to that objective and to the relevant existing treaties in the interest of maintaining international peace and security and promoting international cooperation;

5. Reiterates that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, has the primary role in the negotiation of a multilateral agreement or agreements, as appropriate, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects;

6. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to re-establish the Ad Hoc Committee with a negotiating mandate at the beginning of its 1997 session, taking into account the work undertaken since 1985, with a view to conducting negotiations for the conclusion of an agreement or agreements, as appropriate, to prevent an arms race in outer space in all its aspects;

7. Recognizes, in this respect, the growing convergence of views on the elaboration of measures designed to strengthen transparency, confidence and security in the peaceful uses of outer space;

8. Urges States conducting activities in outer space, as well as States interested in conducting such activities, to keep the Conference on Disarmament informed of the progress of bilateral or multilateral negotiations relating to the prevention of an arms race in outer space, if any, so as to facilitate its work;

9. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Prevention of an arms race in outer space".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/51/45
10 January 1997

Fifty-first session
Agenda item 71

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the First Committee (A/51/566/Add.11)]

51/45. General and complete disarmament

A

Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons: 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its Preparatory Committee

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2373 (XXII) of 12 June 1968, the annex to which contains the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

Noting the provisions of article VIII, paragraph 3, of the Treaty regarding the convening of Review Conferences at five-year intervals,

Recalling the decision on strengthening the review process for the Treaty, of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of Parties to the Treaty[1] in which it was agreed that Treaty Review Conferences should continue to be held every five years and that, accordingly, the next Review Conference should be held in the year 2000,

Recalling also the decision of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference that the first Preparatory Committee meeting for the 2000 Review Conference should be held in 1997,

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[1] 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, Part I (NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I)), annex, decision 1.

Recalling further its resolution 50/70 Q of 12 December 1995, in which it took note of the various decisions of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference,

1. Takes note of the decision of the parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, following appropriate consultations, to hold the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee in New York from 7 to 18 April 1997;

2. Requests the Secretary-General to render the necessary assistance and to provide such services, including summary records, as may be required for the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its Preparatory Committee.

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

B

The nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas

The General Assembly,

Determined to continue to contribute to the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons in all its aspects and to the process of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, in particular in the field of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, with a view to strengthening international peace and security, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Stressing the importance of the treaties of Tlatelolco,[2] Rarotonga,[3] Bangkok[4] and Pelindaba,[5] establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones, as well as the Antarctic Treaty,[6]

Recalling that, at its first special session devoted to disarmament, the General Assembly declared, inter alia, that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of agreements or arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the zone concerned constitutes an important disarmament measure; that the States participating in such zones should undertake to comply fully with all the objectives, purposes and principles of the

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[2] Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean.

[3] South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty.

[4] Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone.

[5] African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty.

[6] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 402, No. 5778.

agreements or arrangements establishing the zones, thus ensuring that they are genuinely free from nuclear weapons; and that the nuclear-weapon States are called upon to give undertakings, negotiated with the competent authority of each zone, in particular, to respect strictly the status of the nuclear-weapon-free zone and to refrain from the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons against the States of the zone,

Recalling also that the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons[7] reaffirmed the conviction that the establishment of internationally recognized nuclear-weapon-free zones, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned, enhances global and regional peace and security, and encouraged the development of nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in regions of tension, such as in the Middle East,

Recalling further the applicable principles and rules of international law relating to rights of passage through maritime space,

1. Recognizes with satisfaction that the Antarctic Treaty[6] and the treaties of Tlatelolco,[2] Rarotonga,[3] Bangkok[4] and Pelindaba[5] are gradually freeing the entire southern hemisphere and adjacent areas covered by those treaties from nuclear weapons;

2. Calls for the ratification of the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba by all regional States, and calls upon all concerned States to continue to work together in order to facilitate adherence to the protocols to nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties by all relevant States that have not yet done so;

3. Calls upon all States to consider proposals to establish further nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in areas such as the Middle East and South Asia, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned, to strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime and, with particular reference to the responsibilities of the nuclear-weapon States, to advance the process of nuclear disarmament with the ultimate goal of eliminating all nuclear weapons;

4. Calls upon the States parties and signatories to the treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba, in order to promote the common goals envisaged in those treaties, to explore and implement further ways and means of cooperation, including the consolidation of the status of the nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas;

5. Encourages the competent authorities of nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties to provide assistance to the States parties and signatories to such treaties so as to facilitate the accomplishment of these goals;

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[7] See 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, Part I (NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I)).

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session an item entitled "The nuclear-weapon-free southern hemisphere and adjacent areas".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

C

Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/75 I of 15 December 1994 and 50/70 F of 12 December 1995,

Recalling also that, there being a consensus to do so in each case, three special sessions of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament were held in 1978, 1982 and 1988, respectively,

Bearing in mind the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[8] the first special session devoted to disarmament, and the objective of general and complete disarmament under effective international control,

Welcoming the recent positive changes in the international landscape, characterized by the end of the cold war, the relaxation of tensions at the global level and the emergence of a new spirit governing relations among nations,

Taking note of paragraph 108 of the Final Document of the Eleventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Countries, held at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 18 to 20 October 1995,[9] which supported the convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament in 1997, which would offer an opportunity to review, from a perspective more in tune with the current international situation, the most critical aspects of the process of disarmament and to mobilize the international community and public opinion in favour of the elimination of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and of the control and reduction of conventional weapons,

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[8] Resolution S-10/2.

[9] A/50/752-S/1995/1035, annex III; see Official Records of the Security Council, Fiftieth Year, Supplement for October, November and December 1995, document S/1995/1035.

Taking note also of the interim report of the 1996 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission on the item entitled "Exchange of views on the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament",[10]

Desiring to build upon the constructive exchange of views on the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament during the 1996 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission,

Reiterating its conviction that a special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament can set the future course of action in the field of disarmament, arms control and related international security matters,

Emphasizing the importance of multilateralism in the process of disarmament and arms control, peace and security,

Noting that, with the completion of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction[11] and the adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty,[12] as well as of amended Protocol II[13] and new Protocol IV[13] to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects,[14] the following years would be opportune for the international community to start the process of reviewing the state of affairs in the entire field of disarmament and arms control in the post-cold-war era,

1. Decides, subject to the emergence of a consensus on its objectives and agenda, to convene its fourth special session devoted to disarmament in 1999;

2. Notes the view of the Secretary-General that preparations for the special session could begin in 1997;

3. Decides, subject to the outcome of deliberations concerning the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament at the 1997 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission, to convene a meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the Fourth Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament before the end of the fifty-first session of the Assembly in order to set an exact date and to decide on organizational matters relating to the convening of the special session, and requests the Preparatory Committee to submit its progress report to the Assembly at its fifty-second session;

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[10] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/51/42), para. 30.

[11] Ibid., Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/47/27), appendix I.

[12] See resolution 50/245.

[13] See CCW/CONF.I/16 (Part I).

[14] See The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook, vol. 5: 1980 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.IX.4), appendix VII.

4. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the Preparatory Committee with all necessary assistance, including essential background information and relevant documents as necessary;

5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament" and, subject to the outcome of deliberations at the 1997 substantive session of the Disarmament Commission, to take up the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Fourth Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament.

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

D

Relationship between disarmament and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling the provisions of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly[4] concerning the relationship between disarmament and development,

Recalling also the adoption on 11 September 1987 of the Final Document of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development,[15]

Recalling further its resolutions 49/75 J of 15 December 1994 and 50/70 G of 12 December 1995,

Bearing in mind the Final Document of the Eleventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Countries, held at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 18 to 20 October 1995,[7]

Stressing the growing importance of the symbiotic relationship between disarmament and development in current international relations,

1. Acknowledges the note by the Secretary-General[16] and actions taken in accordance with the Final Document of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development;[15]

2. Urges the international community to devote part of the resources made available by the implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements to economic and social development, with a view to reducing the ever widening gap between developed and developing countries;

3. Invites all Member States to communicate to the Secretary-General, by 15 April 1997, their views and proposals for the implementation of the action programme adopted at the International Conference on the Relationship

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[15] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.87.IX.8.

[16] A/51/207.

between Disarmament and Development,[7] as well as any other views and proposals with a view to achieving the goals of the action programme, within the framework of current international relations;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to take action, through appropriate organs and within available resources, for the implementation of the action programme adopted at the International Conference;

5. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Relationship between disarmament and development".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

E

Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/70 M of 12 December 1995,

Emphasizing the importance of the observance of environmental norms in the preparation and implementation of disarmament and arms limitation agreements,

Recognizing that it is necessary duly to take into account the agreements adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as well as prior relevant agreements, in the drafting and the implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms limitation,

Mindful of the detrimental environmental effects of the use of nuclear weapons,

Taking note of the preamble to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty,[8] opened for signature on 24 September 1996, concerning the contribution to environmental protection provided by the Treaty,

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[7] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.87.IX.8, para. 35.

[8] A/50/1027, annex.

Considering its resolution 2602 C (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, in which it requested the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament,[1] inter alia, to consider effective methods to control radiological means of warfare, in the interest of averting the hazards of using radioactive wastes as a means of radiological warfare, and of their impact on international security and environmental preservation,

Recognizing that prevention of the nuclear arms race on the seabed and the ocean floor and in the subsoil thereof contributes to keeping the peace and protecting the environment,

Convinced of the general interest of mankind in the progress of the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes, and the need to preserve the world's environment in this context,

Desirous that, in the interest of mankind, Antarctica should continue to be used for exclusively peaceful purposes and that the balance of that important ecosystem should be preserved,

Taking note of the environment-related provisions laid down in the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction,[2]

Convinced of the importance of strengthening the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction[3] through the adoption of appropriate measures, including possible verification measures, and the drafting of proposals to be included, as appropriate, in a legally binding instrument, on the basis of the findings of the ad hoc working group set up to that effect, and which, inter alia, should take into account the necessity of ensuring the preservation of the environment,

Conscious that the international transfer of relevant technologies, services and know-how for peaceful purposes can contribute positively to abiding by environmental norms in the framework of the disarmament and arms limitation agreements,

1. Invites the Conference on Disarmament to take every necessary measure to include the relevant environmental norms and provisions in negotiating treaties and agreements on disarmament and arms limitation, taking into account the need to preserve the world's environment and to ensure the strict observance of such environmental norms and provisions during the entire process of implementation of the provisions of the aforementioned treaties and agreements, particularly during the process of destruction of the arms covered by them;

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[1] The Conference of the Committee on Disarmament became the Committee on Disarmament as from the tenth special session of the General Assembly. The Committee on Disarmament was redesignated the Conference on Disarmament as from 7 February 1984.

[2] Resolution 2826 (XXVI), annex.

2. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to take into account, in the negotiations for a convention on the prohibition of radiological weapons, radioactive wastes as part of the scope of such a convention, as well as express provisions relating to environmental protection;

3. Expresses grave concern regarding any use of nuclear wastes that would constitute radiological warfare and have grave implications for the national security of all States and for preserving the environment;

4. Urges States parties to comply strictly with the provisions of the Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Seabed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof,[21] and calls on States that possess nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction that have not yet done so, to become parties to the Treaty, as a major contribution to international peace and the ecologically rational use of the environment;

5. Calls upon all States, especially those that have major space programmes, to contribute actively to the attainment of the goals of using outer space for peaceful purposes, preserving the world's environment and preventing the arms race in outer space and, for the sake of international peace and security and of promoting international cooperation, to refrain from acting counter to the spirit of that international legal instrument;

6. Welcomes the concrete measures taken by several countries to ensure compliance with the Antarctic Treaty,[7] and calls upon all countries to refrain from carrying out any activity counter to the spirit of that international legal instrument;

7. Emphasizes the importance of the compliance by all States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction,[22] and calls upon them to cooperate and to preserve the environment in the process of the implementation of the Convention in all its relevant aspects;

8. Urges States parties to consider all the relevant norms related to the protection of the environment in implementing the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction;[23]

9. Calls upon States to adopt unilateral, bilateral, regional and multilateral measures so as to contribute to ensuring the application of scientific and technological progress in the framework of international security, disarmament and other related spheres, without detriment to the environment or to its effective contribution to attaining sustainable development;

10. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control".

79th plenary meeting
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[21] Resolution 2660 (XXV), annex.

F

Measures to curb the illicit transfer and use of conventional arms

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 46/36 H of 6 December 1991 and its decision 47/419 of 9 December 1992 on international arms transfers,

Recalling also its resolutions 48/75 F and H of 16 December 1993, 49/75 M of 15 December 1994 and 50/70 J of 12 December 1995 on measures to curb the illicit transfer and use of conventional arms,

Recognizing that the availability of massive quantities of conventional weapons and especially their illicit transfer, often associated with destabilizing activities, are most disturbing and dangerous phenomena, in particular for the internal situation of affected States and the violation of human rights,

Bearing in mind that in certain situations mercenaries, terrorists and child soldiers are supplied with weapons acquired from illicit transfers of conventional arms,

Convinced that peace and security are inextricably interlinked with and in some cases imperative for economic development and reconstruction, including in war-stricken countries,

Realizing the urgent need to resolve conflicts and to diminish tension, and to accelerate efforts towards general and complete disarmament with a view to maintaining regional and international peace and security,

Recognizing the curbing of the illicit transfer of arms as an important contribution to the relaxation of tension and peaceful reconciliation processes,

Stressing the need for effective national control measures on the transfer of conventional weapons,

Convinced that effective measures to curb the illicit transfer and use of conventional arms will help enhance regional and international peace, security and economic development,

1. Welcomes the adoption by the Disarmament Commission of the report on international arms transfers, with particular reference to General Assembly resolution 46/36 H, as well as a text entitled "Guidelines for international arms transfers in the context of General Assembly resolution 46/36 H of 6 December 1991";[#]

[#] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/51/42), para. 29 and annex I.

2. Invites Member States:

(a) To enact adequate national legislation and/or regulations and adopt administrative procedures in order to exercise effective control over armaments and the export and import of arms, inter alia, with the aim of preventing trafficking in illicit arms and bringing offenders to justice;

(b) To provide the Secretary-General, by 15 April 1997, with relevant information on national control measures on arms transfers with a view to preventing illicit arms transfers;

3. Also invites Member States to provide the Secretary-General, by 15 April 1997, with their views on:

(a) Effective ways and means of collecting weapons transferred illicitly, in particular in the light of experience gained by the United Nations;

(b) Concrete proposals concerning measures at national, regional and international levels to curb the illicit transfer and use of conventional arms;

4. Requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report containing the views expressed by Member States;

(b) To report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the effective implementation of the present resolution;

5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Measures to curb the illicit transfer and use of conventional arms".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

G

Nuclear disarmament with a view to the ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/70 C of 12 December 1995,

Recognizing that the end of the cold war has increased the possibility of freeing the world from the fear of nuclear war,

Appreciating the entry into force of the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms,[2] to which Belarus, Kazakstan, the

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[2] The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook, vol. 16: 1991 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.92.IX.1), appendix II.

Russian Federation, Ukraine and the United States of America are party, and looking forward to the early entry into force of the Treaty on Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms,[24] which was ratified by the United States of America,

Welcoming the reductions in the nuclear arsenals of other nuclear-weapon States,

Welcoming also the decision of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to extend the Treaty indefinitely,[25] taken without a vote, as well as the decisions on strengthening the review process for the Treaty[26] and on the principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament,[25]

Noting the reference in the decision on the principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament to the importance of the following measures for the full realization and effective implementation of article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[27] including the programme of action as reflected below:

(a) The completion by the Conference on Disarmament of the negotiations on a universal and internationally and effectively verifiable comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty no later than 1996, and utmost restraint that should be exercised by the nuclear-weapon States pending the entry into force of that treaty;

(b) The immediate commencement and early conclusion of negotiations on a non-discriminatory and universally applicable convention banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices in accordance with the statement of the Special Coordinator of the Conference on Disarmament and the mandate contained therein;

(c) The determined pursuit by the nuclear-weapon States of systematic and progressive efforts to reduce nuclear weapons globally, with the ultimate goal of eliminating those weapons, and by all States of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,

Welcoming the adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty at the fiftieth session of the General Assembly[2] and its opening for signature at the beginning of the current session,

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[24] Ibid., vol. 18: 1993 United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.IX.1), appendix II.

[25] 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, Part I (NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I)), annex, decision 3.

[26] Ibid., decision 2.

[27] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 729, No. 10485.

Recalling that nuclear non-proliferation and the promotion of nuclear disarmament are key elements in the maintenance of international peace and security, which is one of the most important purposes of the United Nations,

1. Urges States not parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons[28] to accede to it at the earliest possible date, recognizing the importance of universal adherence to the Treaty;

2. Calls for the determined pursuit by the nuclear-weapon States of systematic and progressive efforts to reduce nuclear weapons globally, with the ultimate goal of eliminating those weapons, and by all States of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, and invites them to keep States Members of the United Nations duly informed of the progress and efforts made;

3. Calls upon all States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to make their best efforts for a smooth start of the strengthened review process of the Treaty as they convene their first Preparatory Committee, in 1997, with a view to the success of the next Review Conference which should be held in the year 2000;

4. Calls upon all States to implement fully their commitments in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

H

Transparency in armaments

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 46/36 L of 9 December 1991, 47/52 L of 15 December 1992, 48/75 E of 16 December 1993, 49/75 C of 15 December 1994 and 50/70 D of 12 December 1995,

Continuing to take the view that an enhanced level of transparency in armaments contributes greatly to confidence-building and security among States and that the establishment of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms[28] constitutes an important step forward in the promotion of transparency in military matters,

Welcoming the consolidated report of the Secretary-General on the Register,[29] which includes the returns of Member States for 1995,

Welcoming also the response of Member States to the request contained in paragraphs 9 and 10 of resolution 46/36 L to provide data on their imports and exports of arms, as well as available background information regarding their

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[28] See resolution 46/36 L.

[29] A/51/300 and Add.1 and 2.

military holdings, procurement through national production and relevant policies,

Welcoming further the report of the Disarmament Commission at its 1996 session on the subject of international arms transfers,[10] which was adopted by consensus,

Stressing that the continuing operation of the Register and its further development should be reviewed in order to secure a Register that is capable of attracting the widest possible participation,

1. Reaffirms its determination to ensure the effective operation of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms[28] as provided for in paragraphs 7, 8, 9 and 10 of resolution 46/36 L;

2. Calls upon Member States to provide the requested data and information for the Register, on the basis of resolutions 46/36 L and 47/52 L and the annex and appendices to the 1994 report of the Secretary-General on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development,[11] to the Secretary-General by 30 April annually;

3. Reaffirms its decision, with a view to the further development of the Register, to keep the scope of and participation in the Register under review, and, to that end:

(a) Recalls its request to Member States to provide the Secretary-General with their views on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development and on transparency measures related to weapons of mass destruction;

(b) Recalls its request to the Secretary-General, with the assistance of a group of governmental experts to be convened in 1997, on the basis of equitable geographical representation, to prepare a report on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development, taking into account the report of the Disarmament Commission at its 1996 session on the subject of international arms transfers,[10] the work of the Conference on Disarmament, the views expressed by Member States and the 1994 report of the Secretary-General on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development,[11] with a view to a decision at its fifty-second session;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that sufficient resources are made available for the Secretariat to operate and maintain the Register;

5. Invites the Conference on Disarmament to consider continuing its work undertaken in the field of transparency in armaments;

6. Reiterates its call upon all Member States to cooperate at the regional and subregional levels, taking fully into account the specific conditions prevailing in the region or subregion, with a view to enhancing and

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[10] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/51/42), annex I.

[11] A/49/316.

coordinating international efforts aimed at increased openness and transparency in armaments;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the progress made in implementing the present resolution;

8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Transparency in armaments".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

I

Bilateral nuclear arms negotiations and nuclear disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous relevant resolutions,

Recognizing the fundamental changes that have taken place with respect to international security, which have permitted agreements on deep reductions in the nuclear armaments of the States possessing the largest inventories of such weapons,

Stressing that it is the responsibility and the obligation of all States to contribute to the process of the relaxation of international tension and to the strengthening of international peace and security through disarmament, in particular, nuclear disarmament, which remains the highest priority of our times,

Stressing also that, as stipulated in many agreements and recently reiterated by the unanimous decision by the International Court of Justice,[32] there exists the obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control,

Welcoming the number of positive developments that have created opportunities for nuclear disarmament, in particular, the completion of the implementation of the 1987 Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles,[33] removing such weapons from deployed status, the conclusion of bilateral agreements on de-targeting strategic missiles, the cooperative efforts to ensure the safety, security and environmentally sound destruction of nuclear weapons as well as the efforts to

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[32] Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons, Advisory Opinion (A/51/218, annex); see also Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 4 (A 51 4), paras. 176-183.

[33] The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook, vol. 12: 1987 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.88.IX.2), appendix VII.

deactivate all nuclear delivery systems or other steps to remove them from alert status,

Noting that there are still significant nuclear arsenals and that the primary responsibility for nuclear disarmament, with the objective of the elimination of nuclear weapons, rests with all nuclear-weapon States, in particular, those possessing the largest stockpiles,

Recalling the expressed commitment by the nuclear-weapon States to pursue systematic and progressive efforts to reduce nuclear weapons globally, with the ultimate goal of the elimination of those weapons, which should be carried out within a time-bound framework,

Recalling also the agreement between the Russian Federation and the United States of America to intensify their dialogue to compare conceptual approaches and to develop concrete steps to adapt the nuclear forces and practices on both sides to the changed international security situation, including the possibility, after ratification of the Treaty on the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms,[24] of further reductions of and limitations on remaining nuclear forces,

Taking note of the joint statement of 10 May 1995 by the Russian Federation and the United States of America on the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems,

Welcoming the reductions made by other nuclear-weapon States in some of their nuclear-weapons programmes, and encouraging all nuclear-weapon States to consider appropriate measures relating to nuclear disarmament,

Affirming that bilateral and multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament should facilitate and complement each other,

1. Welcomes the entry into force and implementation of the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms,[23] signed in Moscow on 31 July 1991 by the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America, including the Protocol to that Treaty, signed at Lisbon on 23 May 1992 by the parties thereto, and the exchange of documents of ratification between the United States of America, Belarus, Kazakstan, the Russian Federation and Ukraine on 5 December 1994 at Budapest, as well as the ratification by the United States of America of the 1993 Treaty on Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms,[24] and urges the parties concerned to make further efforts to bring that Treaty into force at the earliest possible date;

2. Encourages the United States of America and the Russian Federation to continue their efforts aimed at eliminating nuclear weapons and strategic offensive arms on the basis of existing agreements, and welcomes the contributions that other States are making to such cooperation as well;

3. Welcomes the removal of all nuclear weapons from the territory of Kazakstan, as from June 1995, and from the territory of Ukraine, as from June 1996;

4. Encourages and supports the Russian Federation and the United States of America in intensifying their work for deep reductions in their nuclear armaments, and calls upon those States to accord the highest priority

to this work, in order to contribute to the elimination of nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework;

5. Invites the Russian Federation and the United States of America to keep the States Members of the United Nations and the Conference on Disarmament duly informed of progress in their discussions and in the implementation of their strategic offensive arms agreements and unilateral decisions;

6. Calls upon the Conference on Disarmament to take such information into account in the negotiations to be held on nuclear disarmament leading to the elimination of nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework.

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J

Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind resolutions CM/Res.1153 (XLVIII) of 1988[14] and CM/Res.1225 (L) of 1989,[15] adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, concerning the dumping of nuclear and industrial wastes in Africa,

Welcoming resolution GC(XXXIV)/RES/530 establishing a Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste, adopted on 21 September 1990 by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its thirty-fourth regular session,[16]

Welcoming also resolution GC(XXXVIII)/RES/6, adopted on 23 September 1994 by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its thirty-eighth regular session,[17] inviting the Board of Governors and the Director General of the Agency to commence preparations for a convention on the safety of radioactive waste management, and noting the progress that has been made in that regard,

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[14] See A/43/398, annex I.

[15] See A/44/603, annex I.

[16] See International Atomic Energy Agency, Resolutions and Other Decisions of the General Conference, Thirty-fourth Regular Session, 17-21 September 1990 (GC(XXXIV)/RESOLUTIONS (1990)).

[17] Ibid., Thirty-eighth Regular Session, 19-23 September 1994 (GC(XXXVIII)/RES/DEC (1994)).

Taking note of the commitment by the participants at the Summit on Nuclear Safety and Security, held in Moscow on 19 and 20 April 1996, to ban the dumping at sea of radioactive wastes,[38]

Considering its resolution 2602 C (XXIV) of 16 December 1969, in which it requested the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament,[39] inter alia, to consider effective methods of control against the use of radiological methods of warfare,

Recalling resolution CM/Res.1356 (LIV) of 1991, adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity,[39] on the Bamako Convention on the Ban on the Import of Hazardous Wastes into Africa and on the Control of Their Transboundary Movements within Africa,

Aware of the potential hazards underlying any use of radioactive wastes that would constitute radiological warfare and its implications for regional and international security, in particular for the security of developing countries,

Recalling all its resolutions on the matter since its forty-third session in 1988, including its resolution 50/70 E of 12 December 1995,

Desirous of promoting the implementation of paragraph 76 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[3] the first special session devoted to disarmament,

1. Takes note of the part of the report of the Conference on Disarmament relating to a future convention on the prohibition of radiological weapons;[40]

2. Expresses grave concern regarding any use of nuclear wastes that would constitute radiological warfare and have grave implications for the national security of all States;

3. Calls upon all States to take appropriate measures with a view to preventing any dumping of nuclear or radioactive wastes that would infringe upon the sovereignty of States;

4. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to take into account, in the negotiations for a convention on the prohibition of radiological weapons, radioactive wastes as part of the scope of such a convention;

5. Also requests the Conference on Disarmament to intensify efforts towards an early conclusion of such a convention and to include in its report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session the progress recorded in the negotiations on this subject;

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[38] A/51/131, annex I, para. 20.

[39] See A/46/390, annex I.

[40] See Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/51/27), sect. III.F.

6. Takes note of resolution CM/Res.1356 (LIV) of 1991, adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity, on the Bamako Convention on the Ban on the Import of Hazardous Wastes into Africa and on the Control of Their Transboundary Movements within Africa;

7. Expresses the hope that the effective implementation of the International Atomic Energy Agency Code of Practice on the International Transboundary Movement of Radioactive Waste will enhance the protection of all States from the dumping of radioactive wastes on their territories;

8. Welcomes the current efforts of the International Atomic Energy Agency in the preparation of a draft convention on the safe management of radioactive wastes and the appropriate recommendations made by the participants at the Summit on Nuclear Safety and Security, held in Moscow on 19 and 20 April 1996, in particular their call on all States generating nuclear wastes with nuclear installations to participate actively in the preparation of this convention under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency and to encourage its effective finalization and prompt adoption;

9. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Prohibition of the dumping of radioactive wastes".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

K

Regional disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/58 P of 4 December 1990, 46/36 I of 6 December 1991, 47/52 J of 9 December 1992, 48/75 I of 16 December 1993, 49/75 N of 15 December 1994 and 50/70 K of 12 December 1995 on regional disarmament,

Believing that the efforts of the international community to move towards the ideal of general and complete disarmament are guided by the inherent human desire for genuine peace and security, the elimination of the danger of war and the release of economic, intellectual and other resources for peaceful pursuits,

Affirming the abiding commitment of all States to the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations in the conduct of their international relations,

Noting that essential guidelines for progress towards general and complete disarmament were adopted at the tenth special session of the General Assembly,[4]

Taking note of the guidelines and recommendations for regional approaches to disarmament within the context of global security adopted by the Disarmament Commission at its 1993 substantive session,[4]

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[4] Ibid., Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/48/42), annex II.

Welcoming the prospects of genuine progress in the field of disarmament engendered in recent years as a result of negotiations between the two super-Powers,

Taking note of the recent proposals for disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation at the regional and subregional levels,

Recognizing the importance of confidence-building measures for regional and international peace and security,

Convinced that endeavours by countries to promote regional disarmament, taking into account the specific characteristics of each region and in accordance with the principle of undiminished security at the lowest level of armaments, would enhance the security of smaller States and would thus contribute to international peace and security by reducing the risk of regional conflicts,

1. Stresses that sustained efforts are needed, within the framework of the Conference on Disarmament and under the umbrella of the United Nations, to make progress on the entire range of disarmament issues;

2. Affirms that global and regional approaches to disarmament complement each other and should therefore be pursued simultaneously to promote regional and international peace and security;

3. Calls upon States to conclude agreements, wherever possible, for nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament and confidence-building measures at the regional and subregional levels;

4. Welcomes the initiatives towards disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and security undertaken by some countries at the regional and subregional levels;

5. Supports and encourages efforts aimed at promoting confidence-building measures at the regional and subregional levels in order to ease regional tensions and to further disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation measures at the regional and subregional levels;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Regional disarmament".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

L

Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting them

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 46/36 H of 6 December 1991, 47/52 G and J of 9 December 1992, 48/75 H and J of 16 December 1993, 49/75 G of 15 December 1994 and 50/70 H of 12 December 1995,

...

Considering that the illicit circulation of massive quantities of small arms throughout the world impedes development and is a source of increased insecurity,

Considering also that the illicit international transfer of small arms and their accumulation in many countries constitute a threat to the populations and to national and regional security and are a factor contributing to the destabilization of States,

Basing itself on the statement of the Secretary-General relating to the request of Mali concerning United Nations assistance for the collection of small arms,

Gravely concerned at the extent of the insecurity and banditry linked to the illicit circulation of small arms in Mali and the other affected States of the Saharo-Sahelian subregion,

Taking note of the first conclusions of the United Nations advisory missions sent to the affected countries of the subregion by the Secretary-General to study the best way of curbing the illicit circulation of small arms and ensuring their collection,

Taking note also of the interest shown by other States of the subregion in receiving a United Nations advisory mission,

Noting the actions taken and those recommended at the meetings of the States of the subregion held at Banjul, Algiers and Bamako to establish close regional cooperation with a view to strengthening security,

1. Welcomes the initiative taken by Mali concerning the question of the illicit circulation of small arms and their collection in the affected States of the Saharo-Sahelian subregion;

2. Also welcomes the action taken by the Secretary-General in implementation of this initiative in the context of General Assembly resolution 40/151 H of 16 December 1985;

3. Thanks the Governments concerned in the subregion for the substantial support that they have given to the United Nations advisory missions, and welcomes the declared readiness of other States to receive the United Nations Advisory Mission;

4. Encourages the Secretary-General to continue his efforts, in the context of the implementation of resolution 49/75 G and of the recommendations of the United Nations advisory missions, to curb the illicit circulation of small arms and to collect such arms in the affected States that so request, with the support of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and in close cooperation with the Organization of African Unity;

5. Notes that, as part of its efforts to halt the flow of small arms into Mali and the Saharo-Sahelian subregion, the Malian Government oversaw the destruction, at the "Flame of Peace" ceremony held at Timbuktu on 27 March 1996, of thousands of small arms handed over by ex-combatants of the armed movements of northern Mali;

6. Encourages the setting up in the countries of the Saharo-Sahelian subregion of national commissions against the proliferation of small arms;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to examine the issue and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session.

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

M

Advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/75 K of 15 December 1994, in which it requested the International Court of Justice to render an advisory opinion on whether the threat or use of nuclear weapons is permitted in any circumstance under international law,

Mindful of the solemn obligations of States parties, undertaken in article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[24] particularly to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament,

Recalling its resolution 50/70 P of 12 December 1995, in which it called upon the Conference on Disarmament to establish an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament to commence negotiations on a phased programme of nuclear disarmament and for the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework,

Recalling also the principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[24] and in particular the objective of determined pursuit by the nuclear-weapon States of systematic and progressive efforts to reduce nuclear weapons globally, with the ultimate goal of eliminating those weapons,

Recognizing that the only defence against a nuclear catastrophe is the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the certainty that they will never be produced again,

Desiring to achieve the objective of a legally binding prohibition of the development, production, testing, deployment, stockpiling, threat or use of nuclear weapons and their destruction under effective international control,

Reaffirming the commitment of the international community to the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons, and welcoming every effort towards this end,

Reaffirming also the central role of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum,

Noting the adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/245 of 10 September 1996,

Regretting the absence of multilaterally negotiated and legally binding security assurances against the threat or use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States,

Convinced that the continuing existence of nuclear weapons poses a threat to all humanity and that their use would have catastrophic consequences for all life on Earth,

1. *Expresses its appreciation* to the International Court of Justice for responding to the request made by the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session;

2. *Takes note* of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*, issued on 8 July 1996;[42]

3. *Underlines* the unanimous conclusion of the Court that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control;

4. *Calls upon* all States to fulfil that obligation immediately by commencing multilateral negotiations in 1997 leading to an early conclusion of a nuclear-weapons convention prohibiting the development, production, testing, deployment, stockpiling, transfer, threat or use of nuclear weapons and providing for their elimination;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the necessary assistance to support the implementation of the present resolution;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session an item entitled "Follow-up to the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

N

Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purpose of the United Nations to maintain peace and security and, in this context, reaffirming in particular the role of the

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[42] A/51/218, annex.

United Nations in the field of disarmament, as well as the commitment of Member States to take concrete steps in order to strengthen that role,

Convinced that a comprehensive and integrated approach towards certain practical disarmament measures, such as, inter alia, arms control, particularly with regard to small arms and light weapons, confidence-building measures, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants, demining and conversion, often is a prerequisite to maintaining and consolidating peace and security and thus provides a basis for effective rehabilitation and social and economic development,

Noting in this context the reports of the Secretary-General entitled "An Agenda for Peace"[43] and "Supplement to an Agenda for Peace" in which the Secretary-General, inter alia, stressed the urgent need for "practical disarmament in the context of the conflicts the United Nations is actually dealing with and of the weapons, most of them light weapons, that are actually killing people in the hundreds of thousands",[44] and in which, with regard to practical disarmament measures, the Secretary-General stated that "the assembly, control and disposal of weapons has been a central feature of most of the comprehensive peace settlements in which the United Nations has played a peacekeeping role",[45]

Recalling its resolutions 49/75 M of 15 December 1994 and 50/70 B and 50/70 J of 12 December 1995 concerning small arms and light weapons, as well as the control and the illicit transfer of such weapons, and, in this context, encouraging the work of the United Nations expert panel on small arms,

Welcoming the adoption by the Disarmament Commission of the "Guidelines for international arms transfers in the context of General Assembly resolution 46/36 H of 6 December 1991",[1]

Recalling its resolutions 49/75 G of 15 December 1994 and 50/70 H of 12 December 1995, in which it welcomed the initiative taken by Mali concerning the question of illicit circulation of small arms and their collection in the affected States of the Saharo-Sahelian subregion, as well as the action taken by the Secretary-General in the implementation of that initiative,

Welcoming, in this context, the measures taken and other ongoing efforts by the Central African States to promote, within the framework of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, confidence-building and conflict prevention in their subregion,

Recalling its resolution 50/70 D of 12 December 1995 on transparency in armaments, and continuing to take the view that an enhanced level of

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[43] A/47/277-S/24111; see Official Records of the Security Council, Forty-seventh Year, Supplement for April, May and June 1992, document S/24111.

[44] A/50/60-S/1995/1, para. 60; see Official Records of the Security Council, Fiftieth Year, Supplement for January, February and March 1995, document S/1995/1.

[45] Ibid., para. 62.

transparency could contribute to confidence-building and security among States,

Recalling also its resolutions 50/70 O and 50/74 of 12 December 1995 and 50/82 of 14 December 1995 addressing the global landmine problem,

Welcoming the adoption on 3 May 1996 of an amended Protocol II by the Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects[3] as a further step, and also welcoming respective national measures adopted by a growing number of States,

1. Stresses the particular importance of certain practical disarmament measures, such as the collection, control and disposal of arms, especially small arms and light weapons, coupled with restraint over the production and procurement as well as transfers of such arms, the demobilization and reintegration of former combatants, demining and conversion, for the maintenance and consolidation of peace and security in areas that have suffered from conflict;

2. Underlines the important role of the United Nations in providing a political framework for such practical disarmament measures in those areas and in facilitating their implementation;

3. Requests the Secretary-General, in the light of experience gained from conflict resolution, to make recommendations and suggestions for an integrated approach to such practical disarmament measures, taking also into account the work of the United Nations expert panel on small arms, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

4. Also requests the Secretary-General, in this connection, to seek the views of Member States on this subject and to include them in his report;

5. Calls upon Member States, as well as regional arrangements or agencies, to assist the Secretary-General in his endeavours in this regard and to contribute actively to the implementation of such practical disarmament measures;

6. Encourages United Nations organs and agencies to join in this task within the framework of their responsibilities, in particular the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research on the basis of its Disarmament and Conflict Resolution Project;

7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session an item entitled "Consolidation of peace through practical disarmament measures".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

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O

Nuclear disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/75 E of 15 December 1994 on a step-by-step reduction of the nuclear threat, and its resolution 50/70 P of 12 December 1995 on nuclear disarmament,

Reaffirming the commitment of the international community to the goal of the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free world,

Determined to achieve the objective of prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons and their destruction, and to conclude such an international convention or conventions at an early date,

Bearing in mind paragraph 50 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[3] the first special session devoted to disarmament, calling for the urgent negotiation of agreements for the cessation of the qualitative improvement and development of nuclear-weapon systems, and for a comprehensive and phased programme with agreed time-frames, wherever feasible, for progressive and balanced reduction of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery, leading to their ultimate and complete elimination at the earliest possible time,

Taking note of the adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/245 on 10 September 1996,

Recognizing that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and any proposed treaty on fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices must constitute disarmament measures, and not only non-proliferation measures, and that these measures, together with an international legal instrument on adequate security assurances for non-nuclear-weapon States and an international convention prohibiting the use of nuclear weapons, must be integral steps leading to the total elimination of nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework,

Recognizing also that the end of the cold war has brought about favourable conditions for creating a world free of nuclear weapons,

Welcoming the entry into force of the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms,[4] to which Belarus, Kazakstan, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and the United States of America are States parties,

Welcoming also the conclusion of the Treaty on Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms[5] by the Russian Federation and the United States of America and the ratification of that Treaty by the United States of America, and looking forward to the full implementation of the START I[3] and START II[5] Treaties by the States parties, and to further concrete steps for nuclear disarmament by all nuclear-weapon States,

Noting with appreciation the unilateral measures by the nuclear-weapon States for nuclear arms limitation, and encouraging them to undertake further such measures,

Recognizing the complementarity of bilateral and multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament, and that bilateral negotiations can never replace multilateral negotiations in this respect,

Noting the support expressed in the Conference on Disarmament and in the General Assembly for the elaboration of an international convention to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, and the multilateral efforts in the Conference on Disarmament to reach agreement on such an international convention at an early date,

Taking note of the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice dated 8 July 1996 on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons,[42] and welcoming the unanimous reaffirmation by all Judges of the Court that there exists an obligation for all States to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control,

Taking note also of paragraph 84 and other relevant recommendations in the Final Document of the Eleventh Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Countries, held at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 18 to 20 October 1995,[3] calling upon the Conference on Disarmament to establish, on a priority basis, an ad hoc committee to commence negotiations early in 1996 on a phased programme of nuclear disarmament and for the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework, and paragraph 26 of the Communiqué of the Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegations of the Non-Aligned Countries, held in New York on 25 September 1996,[16]

Expressing its regret that the Conference on Disarmament has not been able as yet to establish an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament, as called for in Assembly resolution 50/70 P,

Taking note of the proposal of twenty-eight delegations to the Conference on Disarmament that are members of the Group of 21 for a programme of action for the elimination of nuclear weapons,[17] and expressing its conviction that this proposal will be an important input and will contribute to negotiations on this question in the Conference,

1. Recognizes that, in view of the end of the cold war and recent political developments, the time is now opportune for all nuclear-weapon States to undertake effective disarmament measures with a view to the total elimination of these weapons within a time-bound framework;

2. Recognizes also that there is a genuine need to de-emphasize the role of nuclear weapons, and to review and revise nuclear doctrines accordingly;

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[42] A/51/473-S/1996/839, annex.

[17] A/C.1/51/12, annex.

3. Urges the nuclear-weapon States to stop immediately the qualitative improvement, development, production and stockpiling of nuclear warheads and their delivery systems;

4. Calls upon the nuclear-weapon States to undertake the step-by-step reduction of the nuclear threat and a phased programme of progressive and balanced deep reductions of nuclear weapons, and to carry out effective nuclear disarmament measures with a view to the total elimination of these weapons within a time-bound framework;

5. Calls upon the Conference on Disarmament to establish, on a priority basis, an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament to commence negotiations early in 1997 on a phased programme of nuclear disarmament and for the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework through a nuclear weapons convention;

6. Urges the Conference on Disarmament to take into account in this regard the proposal of the twenty-eight delegations for a programme of action for the elimination of nuclear weapons;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Nuclear disarmament".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

P

Measures to uphold the authority of the 1925 Geneva Protocol

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the subject, in particular resolution 43/74 of 7 December 1988,

Determined to act with a view to achieving effective progress towards general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,

Recalling the long-standing determination of the international community to achieve the effective prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical and biological weapons as well as the continuing support for measures to uphold the authority of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva on 17 June 1925,[48] as expressed by consensus in many previous resolutions,

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[48] League of Nations, Treaty Series, vol. XCIV (1929), No. 2138.

Welcoming the end of the cold war, the ensuing easing of international tension and the strengthening of trust between States,

Welcoming also the recent initiatives by some States parties to withdraw their reservations to the 1925 Geneva Protocol,

1. Renews its previous call to all States to observe strictly the principles and objectives of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva on 17 June 1925,[48] and reaffirms the vital necessity of upholding its provisions;

2. Calls upon those States that continue to maintain reservations to the 1925 Geneva Protocol to withdraw those reservations;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/75 J of 16 December 1993, 49/75 O of 15 December 1994 and 50/70 L of 12 December 1995,

Recognizing the crucial role of conventional arms control in promoting regional and international peace and security,

Convinced that conventional arms control needs to be pursued primarily in the regional and subregional contexts since most threats to peace and security in the post-cold-war era arise mainly among States located in the same region or subregion,

Aware that the preservation of a balance in the defence capabilities of States at the lowest level of armaments would contribute to peace and stability and should be a prime objective of conventional arms control,

Desirous of promoting agreements to strengthen regional peace and security at the lowest possible level of armaments and military forces,

Noting with particular interest the initiatives taken in this regard in different regions of the world, in particular the commencement of consultations among a number of Latin American countries and the proposals for conventional arms control made in the context of South Asia, and recognizing, in the context of this subject, the relevance and value of the Treaty on

Conventional Armed Forces in Europe,[12] which is a cornerstone of European security,

Believing that militarily significant States, and States with larger military capabilities, have a special responsibility in promoting such agreements for regional security,

Believing also that an important objective of conventional arms control in regions of tension should be to prevent the possibility of military attack launched by surprise and to avoid aggression,

1. Decides to give urgent consideration to the issues involved in conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels;

2. Requests the Conference on Disarmament, as a first step, to consider the formulation of principles that can serve as a framework for regional agreements on conventional arms control, and looks forward to a report of the Conference on this subject;

3. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

R

Bilateral nuclear arms negotiations and nuclear disarmament

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous relevant resolutions,

Recognizing the fundamental changes that have taken place with respect to international security, which have permitted agreements on deep reductions in the nuclear armaments of the States possessing the largest inventories of such weapons,

Mindful that it is the responsibility and obligation of all States to contribute to the process of the relaxation of international tension and to the strengthening of international peace and security and, in this connection, to adopt and implement measures towards the attainment of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,

Appreciating a number of positive developments in the field of nuclear disarmament, in particular the Treaty between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles,[13] and the treaties on the reduction and limitation of strategic offensive arms,

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[12] CD/1064.

Appreciating also the indefinite extension of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,[23] and acknowledging the importance of the determined pursuit by the nuclear-weapon States of systematic and progressive efforts to reduce nuclear weapons globally, with the ultimate goal of eliminating those weapons, and by all States of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control,

Welcoming the steps that have already been taken by the Russian Federation and the United States of America to begin the process of reducing the number of nuclear weapons and removing such weapons from a deployed status, and bilateral agreements on the issue of de-targeting strategic nuclear missiles,

Noting the new climate of relations between the States of the former Soviet Union and the United States of America, which permits them to intensify their cooperative efforts to ensure the safety, security and environmentally sound destruction of nuclear weapons,

Noting also that the Russian Federation and the United States of America concurred that, once the Treaty between them on Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms[24] was ratified, they would proceed to deactivate all nuclear delivery systems to be reduced under the Treaty by removing their nuclear warheads or taking other steps to remove them from alert status,

Noting further the commitment between the Russian Federation and the United States of America to intensify their dialogue to compare conceptual approaches and to develop concrete steps to adapt the nuclear forces and practices on both sides to the changed international security situation, including the possibility, after ratification of the Treaty on Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, of further reductions of and limitations on remaining nuclear forces,

Taking note of the joint statement of 10 May 1995 by the Russian Federation and the United States of America on the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems,

Recalling the Moscow Summit Declaration on Nuclear Safety and Security of April 1996,[25]

Urging early action to complete the ratification of the Treaty on the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms and further intensification of efforts to accelerate the implementation of agreements and unilateral decisions relating to nuclear arms reduction,

Welcoming the significant reductions made by other nuclear-weapon States, and encouraging all nuclear-weapon States to consider appropriate measures relating to nuclear disarmament,

1. Welcomes the entry into force of the Treaty on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms,[21] signed in Moscow on 31 July 1991 by the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America, including the Protocol to that Treaty, signed at Lisbon on 23 May

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[25] A/51/131, annex I.

1992 by the parties thereto, and the exchange of documents of ratification between the United States of America, Belarus, Kazakstan, the Russian Federation and Ukraine on 5 December 1994 at Budapest;

2. Also welcomes the signing of the Treaty between the Russian Federation and the United States of America on Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms[34] in Moscow on 3 January 1993, and urges the parties to take the steps necessary to bring that Treaty into force at the earliest possible date;

3. Expresses its satisfaction at the entry into force and ongoing implementation of the 1991 Treaty as well as the ratification by the United States of America of the 1993 Treaty, and expresses the hope that it will soon be possible for the Russian Federation to ratify that Treaty also;

4. Expresses further satisfaction at the continuing implementation of the Treaty between the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles,[33] in particular at the completion by the parties of the destruction of all their declared missiles subject to elimination under the Treaty;

5. Welcomes the removal of all nuclear weapons from the territory of Kazakstan as of 1 June 1995, and from the territory of Ukraine as of 1 June 1996;

6. Encourages the Russian Federation, the United States of America, Belarus, Kazakstan and Ukraine to continue their cooperative efforts aimed at eliminating nuclear weapons and strategic offensive arms on the basis of existing agreements, and welcomes the contributions that other States are making to such cooperation as well;

7. Welcomes the accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons[21], of Belarus, Kazakstan and Ukraine as non-nuclear-weapon States, which thereby provided notable enhancement to the non-proliferation regime;

8. Encourages and supports the Russian Federation and the United States of America in their efforts to reduce their nuclear weapons and to continue to give those efforts the highest priority in order to contribute to the ultimate goal of eliminating those weapons;

9. Invites the Russian Federation and the United States of America to keep other States Members of the United Nations duly informed of progress in their discussions and in the implementation of their strategic offensive arms agreements and unilateral decisions.

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

S

An international agreement to ban anti-personnel landmines

The General Assembly,

Recalling with satisfaction its resolutions 48/75 K of 16 December 1993, 49/75 D of 15 December 1994 and 50/70 O of 12 December 1995, in which it, inter alia, urged States to implement moratoriums on the export of anti-personnel landmines,

Also recalling with satisfaction its resolutions 49/75 D and 50/70 O, in which it, inter alia, established as a goal of the international community the eventual elimination of anti-personnel landmines,

Noting that, according to the 1995 report of the Secretary-General entitled "Assistance in mine clearance",[1] it is estimated that there are one hundred and ten million landmines in the ground in more than sixty countries throughout the world,

Noting also that, according to the same report, the global landmine crisis continues to worsen as an estimated two million new landmines are laid each year, while only an estimated one hundred and fifty thousand were cleared in 1995,

Expressing deep concern that anti-personnel landmines kill or maim hundreds of people every week, mostly innocent and defenceless civilians and especially children, obstruct economic development and reconstruction, inhibit the repatriation of refugees and the return of internally displaced persons, and have other severe consequences for years after emplacement,

Gravely concerned about the suffering and casualties caused to non-combatants as a result of the proliferation, as well as the indiscriminate and irresponsible use, of anti-personnel landmines,

Recalling with satisfaction its resolutions 48/7 of 19 October 1993, 49/215 A of 23 December 1994 and 50/82 of 14 December 1995 calling for assistance in mine clearance,

Welcoming the recent decisions taken at the Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, particularly with respect to the amended Protocol II[2] to the Convention, and believing that the amended Protocol is an essential part of the global effort to address problems caused by the proliferation, as well as the indiscriminate and irresponsible use, of anti-personnel landmines,

Welcoming also the adoption of the declaration entitled "Towards a Global Ban on Anti-Personnel Mines" by participants at the Ottawa International Strategy Conference on 5 October 1996,[3] including its call

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[1] A/50/408.

[2] A/C.1/51/10, annex.

for the earliest possible conclusion of a legally binding international agreement to ban anti-personnel landmines, and further welcoming the follow-on conference at Brussels in June 1997,

Welcoming further the recent decisions taken by States to adopt various bans, moratoriums or other restrictions on the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel landmines, and other measures taken unilaterally as well as multilaterally,

Recognizing the need to conclude an international agreement to ban all anti-personnel landmines as soon as possible,

1. Urges States to pursue vigorously an effective, legally binding international agreement to ban the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel landmines with a view to completing the negotiation as soon as possible;

2. Urges States that have not yet done so to accede to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects[14] and Protocol II as amended on 3 May 1996,[13] and urges all States immediately to comply to the fullest extent possible with the applicable rules of Protocol II as amended;

3. Welcomes the various bans, moratoriums or other restrictions already declared by States on anti-personnel landmines;

4. Calls upon States that have not yet done so to declare and implement such bans, moratoriums or other restrictions - particularly on operational use and transfer - at the earliest possible date;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report on steps taken to complete an international agreement banning the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel landmines, and on other steps taken by Member States to implement such bans, moratoriums or other restrictions and to submit it to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session under the item entitled "General and complete disarmament";

6. Requests Member States to provide the requested information for the report of the Secretary-General on steps taken to complete an international agreement banning the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel landmines, and on other steps taken to implement bans, moratoriums or other restrictions on anti-personnel landmines and to submit such information to the Secretary-General by 15 April 1997.

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T

Status of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the subject of chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons, in particular resolution 47/39 of 30 November 1992, adopted without a vote, in which it commended the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction,[1]

Noting with satisfaction that, since the Convention was opened for signature at a signing ceremony held in Paris from 13 to 15 January 1993, one hundred and sixty States have signed the Convention,

Determined to achieve the effective prohibition of the development, production, acquisition, transfer, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and their destruction,

Convinced of the urgent necessity of universal adherence to the Convention so as to abolish an entire category of weapons of mass destruction, and thus eliminate the risk to mankind of renewed use of these inhumane weapons,

Noting the ongoing work of the Preparatory Commission for the Organization on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons,

1. Welcomes the fact that the required sixty-five instruments of ratification have now been deposited and that the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction[1] will therefore enter into force on 29 April 1997;

2. Stresses the importance to the Convention that all possessors of chemical weapons, chemical weapons production facilities or chemical weapons development facilities should be among the original parties to the Convention and, in this context, the importance of the United States of America and the Russian Federation, having declared possession of chemical weapons, being among the original States parties to the Convention;

3. Also stresses that this would promote the full realization and effective implementation of the Convention;

4. Calls upon all States that have not yet done so to sign and/or ratify the Convention without delay;

5. Notes that the Preparatory Commission for the Organization on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, at its fourteenth session from 22 to 26 July 1996, entrusted the Chairman of the Commission, in close consultation with its member States, with the task of convening, as necessitated by circumstances in connection with the occurrence of the trigger point, a meeting of the Commission to provide appropriate guidance;

...

6. Urges the Preparatory Commission for the Organization on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to intensify efforts to complete its remaining work;

7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session an item entitled "Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction".

79th plenary meeting
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UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr
GENERAL

A/RES/51/46
9 January 1997

Fifty-first session
Agenda item 72

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the First Committee (A/51/566/Add.12)]

51/46. Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly

A

United Nations Disarmament Information Programme

The General Assembly,

Recalling its decision taken in 1982 at its twelfth special session, the second special session devoted to disarmament, by which the World Disarmament Campaign was launched,[1]

Bearing in mind its various resolutions on the subject, including resolution 47/53 D of 9 December 1992, in which it decided, inter alia, that the World Disarmament Campaign should be known thereafter as the "United Nations Disarmament Information Programme" and the World Disarmament Campaign Voluntary Trust Fund as the "Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme",

Recalling its resolution 49/76 A of 15 December 1994,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General of 19 July 1996 on the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme,[2]

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[1] See Official Records of the General Assembly, Twelfth Special Session, Plenary Meetings, 1st meeting, paras. 110 and 111.

[2] A/51/219.

Deeply concerned by the continuing decrease in contributions to the Programme, which has already affected a number of activities, beginning with the suspension of publications such as the Disarmament Newsletter and Topical Papers,

1. Takes note with concern of the report of the Secretary-General of 19 July 1996 on the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme;[1]

2. Commends the Secretary-General for his efforts to make effective use of the limited resources available to him in disseminating as widely as possible information on arms limitation and disarmament to Governments, the media, non-governmental organizations, educational communities and research institutes, and in carrying out a seminar and conference programme;

3. Stresses the importance of the Programme, as a significant instrument in enabling developing countries to participate fully in the deliberations and negotiations on disarmament in the various United Nations bodies;

4. Notes with appreciation the contributions to the efforts of the Programme by the United Nations information centres and the regional centres for disarmament;

5. Recommends that the Programme focus its efforts:

(a) To inform, to educate and to generate public understanding of the importance of multilateral action and support for it, including action by the United Nations and the Conference on Disarmament, in the field of arms limitation and disarmament, in a factual, balanced and objective manner, in particular through the continuing publication in all official languages of The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook and Disarmament: A Periodic Review by the United Nations, and the updating of the Status of Multilateral Arms Regulation and Disarmament Agreements;

(b) To facilitate unimpeded access to and an exchange of information on ideas between the public sector and public interest groups and organizations, and to provide an independent source of balanced and factual information that takes into account a range of views to help further an informed debate on arms limitation, disarmament and security;

(c) To organize meetings to facilitate exchanges of views and information between governmental and non-governmental sectors and between governmental and other experts in order to facilitate the search for common ground;

6. Invites all Member States to contribute to the Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme;

7. Commends the Secretary-General for supporting the efforts of universities, other academic institutions and non-governmental organizations active in the educational field in widening the worldwide availability of disarmament education, and invites him to continue to support and cooperate with educational institutions and non-governmental organizations engaged in such efforts, without cost to the regular budget of the United Nations;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report covering both the implementation of the activities of the Programme by the United Nations system during the previous two years and the activities of the Programme contemplated by the system for the following two years;

9. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled "United Nations Disarmament Information Programme".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

B

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 42/39 D of 30 November 1987 and 44/117 F of 15 December 1989, by which it established the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and renamed it the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, with headquarters at Kathmandu and with the mandate of providing, on request, substantive support for the initiatives and other activities mutually agreed upon by the Member States of the Asia-Pacific region for the implementation of measures for peace and disarmament, through appropriate utilization of available resources,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General,[1] in which he expresses his belief that the mandate of the Regional Centre not only remains valid but is even more relevant today in the changed international environment,

Commending the useful activities carried out by the Regional Centre in encouraging regional and subregional dialogue for the enhancement of openness, transparency and confidence-building, as well as the promotion of disarmament and security through the organization of regional meetings, which has come to be widely known within the Asia-Pacific region as the "Kathmandu process",

Noting that trends in the post-cold-war era have emphasized the function of the Regional Centre in assisting Member States as they deal with new security concerns and disarmament issues emerging in the region,

Recognizing the need for the Regional Centre to pursue effectively its expanded function,

Expressing its appreciation to the Regional Centre for its organization of substantive regional meetings at Kathmandu and at Hiroshima, Japan, in 1996,

Appreciating highly the important role Nepal has played as the host nation of the headquarters of the Regional Centre,

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[1] A/51/445.

1. Reaffirms its resolution 50/71 D of 12 December 1995, in particular its strong support for the continued operation and further strengthening of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific as an essential promoter of the regional peace and disarmament dialogue in the Asia-Pacific region known as the "Kathmandu process";

2. Expresses its appreciation for the political support and financial contribution received by the Regional Centre;

3. Appeals to Member States, in particular those within the Asia-Pacific region, as well as to international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations, to make voluntary contributions in order to strengthen the programme of activities of the Regional Centre and its implementation;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to provide all necessary support, within existing resources, to the Regional Centre in carrying out its programme of activities;

5. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

C

Regional confidence-building measures

The General Assembly,

Recalling the purposes and principles of the United Nations and its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

Bearing in mind the guidelines for general and complete disarmament adopted at its tenth special session, the first special session devoted to disarmament,

Recalling its resolutions 43/78 H and 43/85 of 7 December 1988, 44/21 of 15 November 1989, 45/58 M of 4 December 1990, 46/37 B of 6 December 1991, 47/53 F of 15 December 1992, 48/76 A of 16 December 1993, 49/76 C of 15 December 1994 and 50/71 B of 12 December 1995,

Considering the importance and effectiveness of confidence-building measures taken at the initiative and with the participation of all States concerned and taking into account the specific characteristics of each region, in that they can contribute to regional disarmament and to international security, in accordance with the principles of the Charter,

...

Convinced that the resources released by disarmament, including regional disarmament, can be devoted to economic and social development and to the protection of the environment for the benefit of all peoples, in particular those of the developing countries,

Convinced also that development can be achieved only in a climate of peace, security and mutual confidence both within and among States,

Bearing in mind the establishment by the Secretary-General on 28 May 1992 of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, the purpose of which is to encourage arms limitation, disarmament, non-proliferation and development in the subregion,

Recalling the Brazzaville Declaration on Cooperation for Peace and Security in Central Africa,[4]

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on regional confidence-building measures,[5] which deals with the activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa in the period since the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 50/71 B;

2. Reaffirms its support for efforts aimed at promoting confidence-building measures at regional and subregional levels in order to ease tensions and conflicts in the subregion and to further disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful settlement of disputes in Central Africa;

3. Also reaffirms its support for the programme of work of the Standing Advisory Committee adopted at the organizational meeting of the Committee held at Yaoundé in July 1992;

4. Welcomes the fact that the Committee's programme of work has led to specific actions and measures promoting confidence-building and security in the Central African subregion;

5. Notes the holding of the First Summit of Heads of State and Government of Countries Members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, at Yaoundé on 8 July 1996;

6. Welcomes with great satisfaction the signature at that Summit of the Non-Aggression Pact between the States members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee, and reaffirms its conviction that the Pact is likely to contribute to the prevention of conflicts and further confidence-building in the Central African subregion;

7. Invites the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee that have not yet signed the Pact to do so, and encourages all member States to expedite ratification so that it may enter into force as soon as possible;

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[4] A/50/474, annex I.

[5] A/51/287.

8. Welcomes with satisfaction the Final Declaration of the First Summit of the Standing Advisory Committee,[*] which aims at the implementation of the following measures:

(a) The promotion of participatory systems of governance as a means of preventing conflicts;

(b) The organization, under United Nations auspices, of training seminars for officers in the armed forces, republican guard, gendarmerie and police forces of the Central African States, in order to promote a culture of peace by explaining, once again, their role in a democratic context;

(c) The development of a programme to combat illicit arms trafficking, in order to remove this source of insecurity and a threat to the stability of States in the subregion;

(d) The setting-up, under United Nations auspices, of an early warning system as the basic instrument for preventive diplomacy in Central Africa;

(e) The strengthening of cooperation between States of the subregion and bilateral and multilateral partners on the question of peace and security in Central Africa;

9. Expresses its conviction that the democratic process offers a valuable means to build confidence, promote development and prevent conflicts, and welcomes with satisfaction the decision taken by the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee to hold a subregional conference at Brazzaville in January 1997 on the topic "Democratic institutions and peace in Central Africa";

10. Welcomes the holding, under United Nations auspices, of the first training seminar for instructors in peace operations, at Yaoundé from 9 to 17 September 1996, with a view to strengthening the capacity of the units specializing in peace operations in the armed forces of the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee;

11. Expresses its gratitude to those Governments which responded favourably to the request from the General Assembly and contributed towards financing the aforementioned training seminar;

12. Emphasizes once again the importance of continuing with this training programme in order to strengthen the participation of States members of the Standing Advisory Committee in future United Nations peace operations;

13. Commends the Secretary-General for having established the Trust Fund for the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa;

14. Appeals to Member States and governmental and non-governmental organizations to make additional voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the implementation of the programme of work of the Standing Advisory Committee, in particular the measures and objectives referred to in paragraphs 8, 9 and 12 of the present resolution;

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[*] A/51/274-S/1996/631, annex.

15. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to provide assistance to the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee to ensure that they are able to carry on with their efforts;

16. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

17. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Regional confidence-building measures".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

D

Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons

The General Assembly,

Convinced that the use of nuclear weapons poses the most serious threat to the survival of mankind,

Bearing in mind the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice of 8 July 1996 on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons,

Convinced that a multilateral, universal and binding agreement prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons would contribute to the elimination of the nuclear threat and to the climate for negotiations leading to the ultimate elimination of nuclear weapons, thereby strengthening international peace and security,

Conscious that some steps taken by the Russian Federation and the United States of America towards a reduction of their nuclear weapons and the improvement in the international climate can contribute towards the goal of the complete elimination of nuclear weapons,

Recalling that, in paragraph 58 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[3] it is stated that all States should actively participate in efforts to bring about conditions in international relations among States in which a code of peaceful conduct of nations in international affairs could be agreed upon and that would preclude the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Reaffirming that any use of nuclear weapons would be a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and a crime against humanity, as declared in its resolutions 1653 (XVI) of 24 November 1961, 33/71 B of 14 December 1978, 34/83 G of 11 December 1979, 35/152 D of 12 December 1980 and 36/92 I of 9 December 1981,

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[3] A/51/218, annex.

[4] Resolution S-10/2.

Determined to achieve an international convention prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons, leading to their ultimate destruction,

Stressing that an international convention on the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons would be an important step in a phased programme towards the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework,

Noting with regret that the Conference on Disarmament, during its 1996 session, was unable to undertake negotiations on this subject as called for in General Assembly resolution 50/71 E of 12 December 1995,

1. Reiterates its request to the Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations, in order to reach agreement on an international convention prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances, taking as a possible basis the draft Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons annexed to the present resolution;

2. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to report to the General Assembly on the results of those negotiations.

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

ANNEX

Draft Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons

The States Parties to the present Convention,

Alarmed by the threat to the very survival of mankind posed by the existence of nuclear weapons,

Convinced that any use of nuclear weapons constitutes a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and a crime against humanity,

Desiring to achieve a multilateral, universal and binding agreement prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Bearing in mind the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice that there exists an obligation of all States to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control,

Determined, therefore, to achieve an international convention prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons, leading to their ultimate destruction,

Convinced that the present Convention would be an important step in a phased programme towards the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework,

Determined to continue negotiations for the achievement of this goal,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The States Parties to the present Convention solemnly undertake not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons under any circumstances.

Article 2

This Convention shall be of unlimited duration.

Article 3

1. The present Convention shall be open to all States for signature. Any State that does not sign the Convention before its entry into force in accordance with paragraph 3 of the present article may accede to it at any time.

2. The present Convention shall be subject to ratification by signatory States. Instruments of ratification or accession shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

3. The present Convention shall enter into force on the deposit of instruments of ratification by twenty-five Governments, including the Governments of the five nuclear-weapon States, in accordance with paragraph 2 of the present article.

4. For States whose instruments of ratification or accession are deposited after the entry into force of the Convention, it shall enter into force on the date of the deposit of their instruments of ratification or accession.

5. The depositary shall promptly inform all signatory and acceding States of the date of each signature, the date of deposit of each instrument of ratification or accession and the date of entry into force of this Convention, as well as of the receipt of other notices.

6. The present Convention shall be registered by the depositary in accordance with Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

Article 4

The present Convention, of which the Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts are equally authentic, shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who shall send duly certified copies thereof to the Governments of the signatory and acceding States.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, have signed the present Convention, opened for signature at _____ on the _____ day of _____ one thousand nine hundred and _____.

E

United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 40/151 G of 16 December 1985, 41/60 D of 3 December 1986, 42/39 J of 30 November 1987 and 43/76 D of 7 December 1988 on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, and its resolution 46/36 F of 6 December 1991 and 47/52 G of 9 December 1992 on regional disarmament, including confidence-building measures,

Reaffirming its resolutions 48/76 E of 16 December 1993, 49/76 D of 15 December 1994 and 50/71 C of 12 December 1995 on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean,

Mindful of the provisions of Article 11, paragraph 1, of the Charter of the United Nations stipulating that a function of the General Assembly is to consider the general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and arms limitation,

Taking into account the guidelines for international arms transfers adopted by the Disarmament Commission at its 1996 substantive session,[3]

Welcoming the activities carried out by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, which have contributed substantially to understanding and cooperation among the African States and have thereby strengthened its role in the areas of peace, disarmament, security and development,

Bearing in mind the financial situation of the Regional Centre as described by the Secretary-General in his report on the activities of the Regional Centre,[4]

Underlining, therefore, the need to provide the Regional Centre with financial stability so as to facilitate the effective planning and implementation of its programmes of activities,

1. Expresses its gratitude to the Member States, international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations that have, so far, contributed to the Trust Fund for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa;

2. Commends the activities carried out by the Regional Centre in identifying and broadening the understanding of pressing disarmament and security issues in the African region;

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[3] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 42 (A/51/42), annex I.

[4] See A/51/403.

3. Reaffirms its support for the further operation and strengthening of the Regional Centre, and encourages it to continue to intensify its efforts in promoting cooperation with subregional and regional organizations, as well as among the African States, in order to facilitate the development of effective measures of confidence-building, arms limitation and disarmament, with a view to promoting peace and security;

4. Appeals once again to Member States, mainly to African countries, as well as to international governmental and non-governmental organizations and foundations, to make regular and appropriate voluntary contributions in order to revitalize the Regional Centre, strengthen its programmes of activities and facilitate the effective implementation of such programmes;

5. Requests the Secretary-General, in the light of the current financial situation of the Regional Centre, to intensify his efforts in exploring new ways and means of funding, and to continue to provide all necessary support to the Regional Centre for better achievements and results;

6. Also requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the Director of the Regional Centre is, as far as possible and within existing resources, locally based in order to revitalize the activities of the Regional Centre;

7. Further requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, under the item entitled "Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly", on the activities of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, and on the implementation of the present resolution.

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

F

United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services

The General Assembly,

Recalling its decision, contained in paragraph 108 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[8] the first special session devoted to disarmament, to establish a programme of fellowships on disarmament, as well as its decisions contained in annex IV to the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly,[11] the second special session devoted to disarmament, in which it decided, inter alia, to continue the programme,

Noting with satisfaction that the programme has already trained an appreciable number of public officials selected from geographical regions represented in the United Nations system, most of whom are now in positions of

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[11] See Official Records of the General Assembly, Twelfth Special Session, Annexes, agenda items 9-13, document A/S-12/32.

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responsibility in the field of disarmament affairs in their respective countries or Governments,

Recalling all the annual resolutions on the matter since the thirty-seventh session of the General Assembly, in 1982, including resolution 50/71 A of 12 December 1995,

Noting with satisfaction that the programme, as designed, continues to enable an increased number of public officials, in particular from the developing countries, to acquire more expertise in the sphere of disarmament,

Believing that the forms of assistance available to Member States, in particular to developing countries, under the programme will enhance the capabilities of their officials to follow ongoing deliberations and negotiations on disarmament, both bilateral and multilateral,

1. Reaffirms its decisions contained in annex IV to the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly[1] and the report of the Secretary-General[2] approved by the Assembly in its resolution 33/71 E of 14 December 1978;

2. Expresses its appreciation to the Governments of Germany and Japan for inviting the 1996 fellows to study selected activities in the field of disarmament, thereby contributing to the fulfilment of the overall objectives of the programme;

3. Commends the Secretary-General for the diligence with which the programme has continued to be carried out;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to implement annually the Geneva-based programme within existing resources and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session;

5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled "United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services".

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10 December 1996

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[1] A/33/305.

UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/51/47
8 January 1997

Fifty-first session
Agenda item 73

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the First Committee (A/51/566/Add.13)]

51/47. Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session

A

Expansion of the membership of the Conference on Disarmament

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Conference on Disarmament[1] and in particular the section concerning the expansion of the membership of the Conference,

Stressing the role of the Conference on Disarmament as the sole multilateral global negotiating body on disarmament,

Convinced that a more representative membership of the Conference on Disarmament from among the United Nations would contribute to the more effective pursuit of disarmament goals affecting the entire international community,

Recalling that, since 1978, when agreement was reached at the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament that the membership of the then Committee on Disarmament would be reviewed at regular intervals, there have been thirty-seven applications for membership in the Conference,

[1] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/51/27).

Recalling also that, in 1993, the Special Coordinator for Membership of the Conference on Disarmament proposed that twenty-three applicants for membership should be admitted to the Conference and proposed further that a dynamic solution to the question of membership should be pursued,

Recalling further decision CD/1406 of the Conference on Disarmament, adopted at its 739th plenary meeting on 17 June 1996, admitting twenty-three countries as members of the Conference,[2]

Recalling its resolution 50/72 C of 12 December 1995, adopted without a vote, in which it urged that, following the presentation of progress reports by the President of the Conference, the other applicants to date be further considered by the Conference at its 1996 session,

Noting the request of the Conference on Disarmament that its President continue consultations on a further expansion of its membership and report to it at the beginning of its 1997 session,

1. Recognizes the legitimate aspirations of all countries that have applied for membership to participate fully in the work of the Conference on Disarmament;

2. Calls upon the Conference on Disarmament to consider all remaining applications for membership with a view to reaching a decision on its further enlargement before the end of its 1997 session.

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

B

Report of the Disarmament Commission

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Disarmament Commission,[3]

Recalling its resolutions 47/54 A of 9 December 1992, 47/54 G of 8 April 1993, 48/77 A of 16 December 1993, 49/77 A of 15 December 1994 and 50/72 D of 12 December 1995,

Considering the role that the Disarmament Commission has been called upon to play and the contribution that it should make in examining and submitting recommendations on various problems in the field of disarmament and in the promotion of the implementation of the relevant decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session,

1. Takes note of the report of the Disarmament Commission;[3]

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[2] Ibid., para. 16.

[3] Ibid., Supplement No. 42 (A/51/42).

2. Commends the Disarmament Commission for its adoption by consensus, at its 1996 substantive session, of a set of guidelines for international arms transfers in the context of General Assembly resolution 46/36 H of 6 December 1991,[4] which were recommended to the Assembly for consideration;

3. Endorses the guidelines for international arms transfers in the context of General Assembly resolution 46/36 H of 6 December 1991, as adopted by the Disarmament Commission;

4. Notes with satisfaction that the Disarmament Commission has made significant progress in the discussions on its agenda item regarding the convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament;

5. Reaffirms the importance of further enhancing the dialogue and cooperation among the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament;

6. Also reaffirms the role of the Disarmament Commission as the specialized, deliberative body within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery that allows for in-depth deliberations on specific disarmament issues, leading to the submission of concrete recommendations on those issues;

7. Encourages the Disarmament Commission to continue to make every effort to enhance its working methods so as to enable it to give focused consideration to a limited number of priority issues in the field of disarmament, bearing in mind the decision it has taken to move its agenda towards a three-item phased approach;

8. Requests the Disarmament Commission to continue its work in accordance with its mandate, as set forth in paragraph 118 of the Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly,[5] and with paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 37/78 H of 9 December 1982, and to that end to make every effort to achieve specific recommendations on the items of its agenda, taking into account the adopted "Ways and means to enhance the functioning of the Disarmament Commission";[6]

9. Recommends that, pursuant to the adopted three-item phased approach, the Disarmament Commission, at its 1996 organizational session, adopt the following items for consideration at its 1997 substantive session:

(a) The establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the region concerned;

(b) The fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament;

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[4] Ibid., annex I.

[5] Resolution S-10/2.

[6] A/CN.10/137.

(c) [to be added];[7]

10. Requests the Disarmament Commission to meet for a period not exceeding four weeks during 1997 and to submit a substantive report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to the Disarmament Commission the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament,[1] together with all the official records of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly relating to disarmament matters, and to render all assistance that the Commission may require for implementing the present resolution;

12. Also requests the Secretary-General to ensure full provision to the Disarmament Commission and its subsidiary bodies of interpretation and translation facilities in the official languages and to assign, as a matter of priority, all the necessary resources and services, including verbatim records, to that end;

13. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Report of the Disarmament Commission".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

C

Report of the Conference on Disarmament

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Conference on Disarmament,[1]

Convinced that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community, has the primary role in substantive negotiations on priority questions of disarmament,

Considering, in this respect, that the present international climate should give additional impetus to multilateral negotiations with the aim of reaching concrete agreements,

1. Reaffirms the role of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community;

2. Welcomes the determination of the Conference on Disarmament to fulfil that role in the light of the evolving international situation, with a view to making early substantive progress on priority items of its agenda;

3. Also welcomes the decision taken by the Conference on Disarmament on 17 June 1996 to expand its membership with the admission of twenty-three new members;[7]

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[7] The new item on conventional weapons will be decided by the Disarmament Commission at its 1996 organizational session.

4. Encourages the Conference on Disarmament to continue further review of its membership;

5. Also encourages the Conference on Disarmament to intensify further the ongoing review of its agenda and methods of work;

6. Urges the Conference on Disarmament to make every effort to reach a consensus on its agenda and programme of work at the beginning of its 1997 session;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to ensure the provision to the Conference on Disarmament of adequate administrative, substantive and conference support services;

8. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

9. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Report of the Conference on Disarmament".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/51/48
8 January 1997

Fifty-first session
Agenda item 74

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the First Committee (A/51/566/Add.14)]

51/48. The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the relevant United Nations resolutions,

Taking note of the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the latest of which is resolution GC(40)RES/22 adopted on 20 September 1996, and noting the danger of nuclear proliferation, especially in areas of tension,

Cognizant that the proliferation of nuclear weapons in the region of the Middle East would pose a serious threat to international peace and security,

Mindful of the importance of placing all nuclear facilities in the region of the Middle East under full-scope safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency,

Recalling the resolution on the Middle East adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on 11 May 1995,[1] in which the Conference noted with concern the continued existence in the Middle East of unsafeguarded nuclear facilities, reaffirmed the importance of the early realization of universal

[1] See 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Final Document, Part I (NPT/CONF.1995/32 (Part I)), annex.

adherence to the Treaty[3] and called upon all States in the Middle East that had not yet done so, without exception, to accede to the Treaty as soon as possible and to place all their nuclear facilities under full-scope International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards,

Recalling also the decision on principles and objectives for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons on 11 May 1995,[4] in which the Conference urged universal adherence to the Treaty as an urgent priority and called upon all States not yet party to the Treaty to accede to it at the earliest date, particularly those States that operate unsafeguarded nuclear facilities,

Noting that, since the adoption of the aforementioned resolution and decision on 11 May 1995, Djibouti and the United Arab Emirates have become parties to the Treaty, and that Oman will become a party to the Treaty at the earliest date, and noting also that Israel shall be the only State in the Middle East that has not yet become a party to the Treaty and has not declared its intention to do so,

Concerned about threats posed to security and stability by the proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the region,

Stressing the importance of undertaking confidence-building measures, in particular the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, in order to consolidate the non-proliferation regime and enhance peace and security in the region,

Noting the adoption of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty by the General Assembly[5] and its signature by one hundred and thirty-two States, including a number of States in the region,

1. Welcomes the accession of Djibouti to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons[3] on 22 August 1996, as well as the decision of Oman, expressed by its Minister of State for Foreign Affairs before the General Assembly on 1 October 1996,[6] to accede to the Treaty;

2. Calls upon the only State in the region that is not yet party to the Treaty and has not declared its intention to do so, to accede to the Treaty without further delay, and not to develop, produce, test or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons and to renounce possession of nuclear weapons, and to place all unsafeguarded nuclear facilities under full-scope International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards as an important confidence-building measure among all States of the region and as a step towards enhancing peace and security;

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[3] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 729, No. 10485.

[4] See resolution 50/245.

[5] See Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Plenary Meetings, 16th meeting.

3. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution;

4. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

UNITED NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/51/49
8 January 1997

Fifty-first session
Agenda item 75

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the First Committee (A/51/566/Add.15)]

51/49. Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/74 of 12 December 1995 and previous resolutions referring to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects,[1]

Recalling with satisfaction the adoption, on 10 October 1980, of the Convention, together with the Protocol on Non-Detectable Fragments (Protocol I),[1] the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II)[1] and the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons (Protocol III),[1] which entered into force on 2 December 1983,

Also recalling with satisfaction the adoption, on 13 October 1995, of the Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV),[2]

Reaffirming its conviction that a general and verifiable agreement on prohibitions or restrictions on the use of certain conventional weapons would significantly reduce the suffering of civilians and combatants,

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[1] See The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook, vol. 5: 1980 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.IX.4), appendix VII.

[2] CCW/CONF.I/16 (Part I), annex A.

Noting that, in conformity with article 8 of the Convention, conferences may be convened to examine amendments to the Convention or to any of the Protocols thereto, to examine additional protocols concerning other categories of conventional weapons not covered by the existing Protocols or to review the scope and application of the Convention and the Protocols annexed thereto and to examine any proposed amendments or additional protocols,

Welcoming the fact that the Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects met at resumed sessions at Geneva from 15 to 19 January 1996 and from 22 April to 3 May 1996 and concluded its work,

Particularly welcoming the adoption on 3 May 1996 of the amended Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II),[3]

Recalling the desire expressed by the States party to the Convention that all States, pending the entry into force of the amended Protocol, respect and ensure respect for the substantive provisions of the amended Protocol to the fullest extent possible,

Also recalling the role played by the International Committee of the Red Cross in the elaboration of the Convention and the Protocols annexed thereto,

Welcoming the national measures adopted by an increasing number of Member States relating to bans, moratoriums or restrictions on the transfer, use or production of anti-personnel landmines or to the reduction of existing stockpiles of such mines,

Desirous of reinforcing international cooperation in the area of prohibitions or restrictions on the use of certain conventional weapons, in particular for the removal of minefields, mines and booby traps,

Recalling, in this respect, its resolution 50/82 of 14 December 1995 and previous resolutions on assistance in mine clearance,

Noting with appreciation contributions pledged to the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance,

1. Registers its satisfaction with the report of the Secretary-General;[4]

2. Welcomes the fact that additional States have ratified or accepted the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, which was opened for signature in New York on 10 April 1981, or have acceded to the Convention;

3. Urgently calls upon all States that have not yet done so to take all measures to become parties, as soon as possible, to the Convention and its

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[3] Ibid., annex B.

[4] A/51/254.

Protocols, and upon successor States to take appropriate measures so that ultimately adherence to these instruments will be universal;

4. Calls upon the Secretary-General, in his capacity as depositary of the Convention and the Protocols annexed thereto, to continue to inform it periodically of ratifications and acceptances of and accessions to the Convention and the Protocols;

5. Takes note with appreciation of the final report of the Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, adopted at Geneva on 3 May 1996;[5]

6. Commends the amended Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II)[3] to all States, with a view to achieving the widest possible adherence to this instrument at an early date, and calls, in particular, on the States parties to express their consent to be bound by the Protocol with a view to its entry into force as soon as possible;

7. Again commends the Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons (Protocol IV)[4] to all States, with a view to achieving the widest possible adherence to this instrument at an early date, and calls, in particular, on the States parties to express their consent to be bound by the Protocol with a view to its entry into force as soon as possible;

8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects".

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[5] CCW/CONF.I/16 (Part I).

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/51/50
8 January 1997

Fifty-first session
Agenda item 76

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the First Committee (A/51/566/Add.16)]

51/50. Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the subject, including resolution 50/75 of 12 December 1995,

Reaffirming the primary role of the Mediterranean countries in strengthening and promoting peace, security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region,

Bearing in mind all the previous declarations and commitments, as well as all the initiatives taken by the riparian countries at the recent summits, ministerial meetings and various forums concerning the question of the Mediterranean region,

Recognizing the efforts made so far and the determination of the Mediterranean countries to intensify the process of dialogue and consultations with a view to resolving the problems existing in the Mediterranean region and to eliminate the causes of tension and the consequent threat to peace and security,

Recognizing also the indivisible character of security in the Mediterranean and that the enhancement of cooperation among Mediterranean countries with a view to promoting the economic and social development of all peoples of the region will contribute significantly to stability, peace and security in the region,

Recognizing further that prospects for closer Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in all spheres can be enhanced by positive developments worldwide, in particular in Europe, in the Maghreb and in the Middle East,

Noting the developments in the Middle East peace process that will lead to achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the region and therefore to promoting confidence-building measures and a good-neighbourly spirit among the countries of the area,

Expressing satisfaction at the growing awareness of the need for more joint efforts by all Mediterranean countries so as to strengthen economic, social, cultural and environmental cooperation in the region,

Reaffirming the responsibility of all States to contribute to the stability and prosperity of the Mediterranean region and their commitment to respect the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the provisions of the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,[1]

Expressing its concern at the persistent tension and continuing military activities in parts of the Mediterranean that hinder efforts to strengthen security and cooperation in the region,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on this item,[2]

1. Reaffirms that security in the Mediterranean is closely linked to European security as well as to international peace and security;

2. Expresses its satisfaction at the continuing efforts by Mediterranean countries to contribute actively to the elimination of all causes of tension in the region and to the promotion of just and lasting solutions to the persistent problems of the region through peaceful means, thus ensuring the withdrawal of foreign forces of occupation and respecting the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all countries of the Mediterranean and the right of peoples to self-determination, and therefore calls for full adherence to the principles of non-interference, non-intervention, non-use of force or threat of use of force and the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, in accordance with the Charter and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

3. Commends the efforts by the Mediterranean countries in meeting common challenges through coordinated overall responses, based on a spirit of multilateral partnership, towards the general objective of turning the Mediterranean basin into an area of dialogue, exchanges and cooperation, guaranteeing peace, stability and prosperity;

4. Encourages Mediterranean countries to strengthen such efforts through, inter alia, a lasting, multilateral and action-oriented cooperative dialogue among States of the region;

5. Recognizes that the elimination of the economic and social disparities in levels of development as well as other obstacles in the Mediterranean area will contribute to enhancing peace, security and cooperation among Mediterranean countries through the existing forums;

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[1] Resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.

[2] A/51/230 and Corr.1 and Add.1.

6. Recognizes also that respect and greater understanding among cultures will contribute to enhancing peace, security and cooperation among Mediterranean countries;

7. Calls upon all States of the Mediterranean region that have not yet done so to adhere to all the multilaterally negotiated legal instruments related to the field of disarmament, thus creating the necessary conditions for strengthening peace and cooperation in the region;

8. Encourages all States of the region to favour the necessary conditions for strengthening the confidence-building measures among them by promoting genuine openness and transparency on all military matters, by participating, inter alia, in the United Nations system for the standardized reporting of military expenditures as well as by providing accurate data and information to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms;

9. Encourages the Mediterranean countries to strengthen further their cooperation in combating terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, which poses a serious threat to peace, security and stability in the region and therefore to the improvement of the current political, economic and social situation;

10. Invites all States of the region to address, through various forms of cooperation, problems and threats posed to the region, such as terrorism, international crime and illicit arms transfers, as well as illicit drug production, consumption and trafficking, which jeopardize the friendly relations among States, hinder the development of international cooperation and result in the destruction of human rights, fundamental freedoms and the democratic basis of pluralistic society;

11. Encourages the continued widespread support among the Mediterranean countries for the convening of a conference on security and cooperation in the Mediterranean, as well as the ongoing consultations to create the appropriate conditions for its convening;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on means to strengthen security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region;

13. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/51/51
8 January 1997

Fifty-first session
Agenda item 77

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the First Committee (A/51/566/Add.17 and Corr.1)]

51/51. Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace, contained in its resolution 2832 (XXVI) of 16 December 1971, and recalling also its resolution 50/76 of 12 December 1995 and other relevant resolutions,

Recalling also the report of the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean held in July 1979,[1]

Emphasizing the need to foster consensual approaches, in particular given the prevailing international climate, which is conducive to the pursuit of such endeavours,

Noting the initiatives taken by countries in the region to promote cooperation, in particular economic cooperation, in the Indian Ocean area and the possible contribution of such initiatives to overall objectives of a zone of peace,

Convinced that the participation of all the permanent members of the Security Council and the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean is important and would assist the progress of mutually beneficial dialogue to develop conditions of peace, security and stability in the Indian Ocean region,

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[1] Official Records of the General Assembly, Thirty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 45 and corrigendum (A/34/45 and Corr.1).

Having considered the report of the Ad Hoc Committee,[2] including the statement by its Chairman on 8 July 1996, as contained in paragraph 8 of the report,

1. Takes note of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean;[2]

2. Reiterates its conviction that the participation of all the permanent members of the Security Council and the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee is important and would greatly facilitate the development of a mutually beneficial dialogue to advance peace, security and stability in the Indian Ocean region;

3. Requests the Ad Hoc Committee to examine its future work, taking into account, inter alia, the statement made by its Chairman on 8 July 1996, and to make recommendations for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

4. Also requests the Ad Hoc Committee to hold a session during 1997, of a duration of no more than three working days;

5. Further requests the Ad Hoc Committee to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to render all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Committee, including the provision of summary records;

7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

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[2] Ibid., Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/51/29).

UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/51/52
8 January 1997

Fifty-first session
Agenda item 78

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the First Committee (A/51/566/Add.18)]

51/52. Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)

The General Assembly,

Recalling that in its resolution 1911 (XVIII) of 27 November 1963 it expressed the hope that the States of Latin America would take appropriate measures to conclude a treaty that would prohibit nuclear weapons in Latin America,

Recalling also that in the same resolution it voiced its confidence that, once such a treaty was concluded, all States, and in particular the nuclear-weapon States, would lend it their full cooperation for the effective realization of its peaceful aims,

Considering that in its resolution 2028 (XX) of 19 November 1965 it established the principle of an acceptable balance of mutual responsibilities and obligations between nuclear-weapon States and those which do not possess such weapons,

Recalling that the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)[1] was opened for signature at Mexico City on 14 February 1967,

Taking note of the thirtieth anniversary on 14 February 1997 of the opening for signature of the Treaty of Tlatelolco,

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[1] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 634, No. 9068.

Recalling that in its preamble the Treaty of Tlatelolco states that military denuclearized zones are not an end in themselves but rather a means for achieving general and complete disarmament at a later stage,

Recalling also that in its resolution 2286 (XXII) of 5 December 1967 it welcomed with special satisfaction the Treaty of Tlatelolco as an event of historic significance in the efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and to promote international peace and security,

Recalling further that in 1990, 1991 and 1992 the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean approved and opened for signature a set of amendments to the Treaty of Tlatelolco,[*] with the aim of enabling the full entry into force of that instrument,

Recalling resolution CG/E/RES.27 of the Council of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean,[†] in which the Council calls for the promotion of cooperation and consultations with other nuclear-weapon-free zones,

Noting with satisfaction that, with the full adherence on 6 May 1996 of Guyana, the Treaty of Tlatelolco is in force for thirty-one sovereign States of the region,

Also noting with satisfaction that the amended Treaty of Tlatelolco is fully in force for Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Guyana, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru, Suriname and Uruguay,

1. Welcomes the concrete steps taken by some countries of the region during the past year for the consolidation of the regime of military denuclearization established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco);[‡]

2. Notes with satisfaction the full adherence of Guyana to the Treaty of Tlatelolco;

3. Urges the countries of the region that have not yet done so to deposit their instruments of ratification of the amendments to the Treaty of Tlatelolco approved by the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean in its resolutions 267 (E-V) of 3 July 1990, 268 (XII) of 10 May 1991 and 290 (E-VII) of 26 August 1992;

4. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Consolidation of the regime established by the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)".

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[*] A/47/467, annex.

[†] See CD/1392.

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General Assembly

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GENERAL

A/RES/51/53
9 January 1997

Fifty-first session
Agenda item 79

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the First Committee (A/51/566/Add.19)]

51/53. African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 50/78 of 12 December 1995 and all its other relevant resolutions, as well as those of the Organization of African Unity,

Noting and welcoming with satisfaction the successful conclusion of the signing ceremony of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba)[1] that was held at Cairo on 11 April 1996,

Recalling the Cairo Declaration adopted on that occasion, which emphasized that nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in regions of tension, such as the Middle East, enhance global and regional peace and security,

Noting with satisfaction the statement made by the President of the Security Council on behalf of the members of the Council on 12 April 1996,[2] in which it was stated that the signature of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty constituted an important contribution by the African countries to the maintenance of international peace and security,

Considering that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, especially in the Middle East, would enhance the security of Africa and the viability of the African nuclear-weapon-free zone,

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[1] See A/50/426.

[2] S/PRST/1996/17.

Bearing in mind resolution CM/Res.1660 (LXIV) on expediting the process of ratification of the Treaty of Pelindaba, adopted by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity at its sixty-fourth ordinary session, held at Yaoundé from 1 to 5 July 1996,[1]

1. Calls upon African States to sign and ratify the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty[2] as soon as possible so that it may enter into force without delay;

2. Expresses its appreciation to the international community and in particular to the nuclear-weapon States which have signed the Protocols that concern them, and calls upon them to ratify the Protocols as soon as possible;

3. Calls upon the States contemplated in Protocol III to the Treaty to take all necessary measures to ensure the speedy application of the Treaty to territories for which they are, de jure or de facto, internationally responsible and which lie within the limits of the geographical zone established in the Treaty;

4. Calls upon the African States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons[3] which have not yet concluded comprehensive safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency pursuant to the Treaty to do so, thereby satisfying the requirements of article 9 (b) and annex II to the Treaty of Pelindaba when it enters into force;

5. Expresses its profound gratitude to the Secretary-General for the diligence with which he has rendered effective assistance to the signatories to the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty in accordance with resolution 50/78;

6. Expresses its gratitude to the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity and the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency for the diligence with which they have rendered effective assistance to the signatories to the Treaty;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to extend assistance, within existing resources, to the signatories in 1997 in order to achieve the aims of the present resolution;

8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

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[1] A/51/524, annex I.

[2] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 729, No. 10485.

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/51/54
9 January 1997

Fifty-first session
Agenda item 80

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the First Committee (A/51/566/Add.20)]

51/54. Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions relating to the complete and effective prohibition of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and to their destruction,

Noting with satisfaction that there are one hundred and thirty-nine States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction,[1] including all the permanent members of the Security Council,

Bearing in mind its call upon all States parties to the Convention to participate in the implementation of the recommendations of the Review Conferences, including the exchange of information and data agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction,[2] and to provide such information and data in conformity with standardized procedure to the Secretary-General on an annual basis and no later than 15 April,

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[1] Resolution 2826 (XXVI), annex.

[2] BWC/CONF.III/23, part II.

Recalling its resolution 46/35 A, adopted without a vote on 6 December 1991, in which it welcomed, inter alia, the establishment, proceeding from the recommendations of the Third Review Conference,[1] of an ad hoc group of governmental experts open to all States parties to identify and examine potential verification measures from a scientific and technical standpoint,

Recalling also its resolution 48/65, adopted without a vote on 16 December 1993, in which it commended the final report of the Ad Hoc Group of Governmental Experts to Identify and Examine Potential Verification Measures from a Scientific and Technical Standpoint,[2] agreed to by consensus at the last meeting of the Ad Hoc Group at Geneva on 24 September 1993,

Recalling further its resolution 49/86, adopted without a vote on 15 December 1994, in which it welcomed the final report of the Special Conference of the States Parties to the Convention,[3] adopted by consensus on 30 September 1994, in which the States parties agreed to establish an ad hoc group, open to all States parties, whose objective should be to consider appropriate measures, including possible verification measures, and draft proposals to strengthen the Convention, to be included, as appropriate, in a legally binding instrument to be submitted for the consideration of the States parties,

Recalling the provisions of the Convention related to scientific and technological cooperation and the related provisions of the final report of the Ad Hoc Group of Governmental Experts, the final report of the Special Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, held from 19 to 30 September 1994, and the final documents of the Review Conferences,

1. Welcomes the information and data provided to date, and reiterates its call upon all States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction to participate in the exchange of information and data agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

2. Also welcomes the progress made by the Ad Hoc Group in pursuing the mandate established by the Special Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on 30 September 1994, and urges the Ad Hoc Group, in order to fulfil its mandate, to intensify its work with a view to completing it as soon as possible before the commencement of the Fifth Review Conference and to submit its report, which shall be adopted by consensus, to the States parties to be considered at a special conference;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to render the necessary assistance to the depositary Governments of the Convention and to provide such services as may be required for the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Review Conferences, as well as the decisions contained

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[1] See BWC/CONF.III/23.

[2] BWC/CONF.III/VEREX/9 and Corr.1.

[3] BWC/SPCONF/1.

in the final report of the Special Conference, including all necessary assistance to the Ad Hoc Group;

4. Welcomes the convening, at the request of the States parties, of the Fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention at Geneva from 25 November to 6 December 1996;

5. Calls upon all signatory States that have not yet ratified the Convention to do so without delay, and also calls upon those States that have not signed the Convention to become parties thereto at an early date, thus contributing to the achievement of universal adherence to the Convention;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/51/55
9 January 1997

Fifty-first session
Agenda item 81

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the First Committee (A/51/566/Add.21)]

51/55. The maintenance of international security - prevention of the violent disintegration of States

The General Assembly,

Recalling the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Convinced that the observance of the Charter and the principles of international law is essential for the strengthening of international peace and security,

Considering the emergence of new opportunities for building a peaceful world,

Mindful of the obligations of all States under the Charter, inter alia, to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, to develop friendly relations among nations and to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Deeply concerned that situations that may lead to a breach of international peace are continuing in spite of the efforts of the United Nations to put an end to them and to avert such conflicts in the future,

Stressing the importance of the activities of the international organizations, such as the Organization of African Unity, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Organization of American States, the Association of South-East Asian Nations, the Council of Europe, the League of Arab States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, with the aim of

preventing the violent disintegration of States, of maintaining international peace and security and of promoting international cooperation for development,

Considering that the violent disintegration of States may threaten the maintenance of international peace and security,

Affirming the need for United Nations measures to help prevent the violent disintegration of States, thereby enhancing the maintenance of international peace and security and the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

1. Calls upon all States, the relevant international organizations and competent organs of the United Nations to continue to undertake measures in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations as appropriate to help to prevent the violent disintegration of States;

2. Stresses the importance of good-neighbourliness and the development of friendly relations among States to the solution of problems among States, to prevent the violent disintegration of States and to promote international cooperation in accordance with the Charter;

3. Affirms the need for strict compliance with the principle of the inviolability of international borders among States;

4. Affirms also the need for strict compliance with the principle of the territorial integrity of any State;

5. Requests all States and the relevant international organizations to communicate to the Secretary-General their views on the maintenance of international security - prevention of the violent disintegration of States;

6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session an item entitled "The maintenance of international security - prevention of the violent disintegration of States".

79th plenary meeting
10 December 1996

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1441
22 January 1997

Original: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 21 JANUARY 1997 ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING A STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT CLINTON FOR THE OPENING OF THE 1997 SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

Attached is a copy of a Presidential Statement for the opening of the 1997 session of the Conference on Disarmament issued on 17 January 1997.

I would be grateful if this could be issued as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and distributed to all member States and non-member participant States of the Conference.

(Signed): Stephen J. Ledogar
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

GE.97-60096

Statement by President Clinton for the Opening of the 1997 CD Session

In my message to the Conference on Disarmament three years ago, I urged the negotiation of a comprehensive nuclear test ban at the earliest possible time. Your success in that negotiation, and the subsequent adoption of the Treaty by the United Nations General Assembly, will help create a safer world. The successful conclusion of the negotiation is evidence of the Conference's potential to respond to the challenges it now faces.

Now the Conference on Disarmament should take the next steps on the road to a more secure world:

-- prompt conclusion of a ban on producing fissile material for use in nuclear explosives. Effectively cutting off the spigot for more nuclear weapons is a necessary step toward, and would greatly contribute to, the ultimate goal of nuclear disarmament.

-- negotiation as soon as possible of a comprehensive, global ban on anti-personnel landmines. These weapons of war have caused terrible suffering to innocent civilians and represent an enormous obstacle to restoring a more hopeful life after a conflict has ended. All the children of the world deserve to walk the earth in safety.

I call on the Conference to press forward with a renewed sense of purpose, to demonstrate to the world its capability to take these key steps to advance the process of nuclear and conventional disarmament.

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1442
22 January 1997

Original: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 21 JANUARY 1997 ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING A STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY OF THE WHITE HOUSE AND A FACT SHEET ON UNITED STATES' INITIATIVES ON ANTI-PERSONNEL LANDMINES

Attached is a copy of a Statement by the Press Secretary of the White House on Anti-Personnel Landmines and a Fact Sheet on United States' initiatives on Anti-Personnel Landmines, issued on 17 January 1997.

I would be grateful if these texts could be issued as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and distributed to all member States and non-member participant States of the Conference.

(Signed): Stephen J. Ledogar
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

GE.97-60102

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release January 17, 1997

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

United States Announces Next Steps on Anti-Personnel Landmines

President Clinton today announced that when the Conference on Disarmament opens its 1997 session in Geneva on Monday, the United States will seek to initiate negotiations on a worldwide treaty banning the use, production, stockpiling, and transfer of anti-personnel landmines. As the President said before the UN General Assembly in September, "Our children deserve to walk the earth in safety." The United States hopes that the nations of the world will work with us to create that safety and ban the scourge of landmines, which every year kill or wound more than 25,000 civilians.

To give further impetus to this effort, the President has decided that the United States will observe a permanent ban on the export and transfer of anti-personnel landmines. This action builds on the Landmine Export Moratorium Act sponsored by Senator Patrick Leahy, which has temporarily prohibited the export and transfer of these weapons since 1992. We urge all other nations to join us in stopping the export and transfer of these mines, which will both hasten the completion of a comprehensive ban and save many innocent lives. As another step toward a ban, the President has decided to cap our anti-personnel landmine stockpile at the current level of inventory.

President Clinton last May announced the United States's intention to achieve as soon as possible a worldwide ban on landmines. In December in the UN General Assembly, nations voted 155-0 in favor of the U.S.-initiated resolution urging states to pursue such an agreement.

After extensive consultations with many countries, the President believes that the Conference on Disarmament offers the most practical and effective forum for achieving our aim of a ban that is global. Both the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the Chemical Weapons Convention were successfully negotiated in the Conference on Disarmament.

The United States looks forward to the opening of the Conference on Disarmament on Monday as an opportunity to begin discussion of these initiatives and to make early progress on starting negotiations. At the same time, the United States welcomes efforts outside that forum, including the free-standing process initiated by Canada, that can help provide momentum to our common goal.

# # #

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release January 17, 1997

FACT SHEET

U.S. Initiatives on Anti-Personnel Landmines

People in 64 countries, mostly in the developing world, face a daily threat of being killed or maimed by the estimated 100 million landmines buried around the globe. The United States is committed to ending the carnage and devastation caused by anti-personnel landmines (APL) -- the hidden killers that murder and maim more than 25,000 people every year. In addition to those steps announced today, the United States has already undertaken a number of important actions.

Negotiations to Ban APL

On May 16, 1996, the President announced a new U.S. APL policy, which included a commitment to aggressively pursue an international agreement to ban use, stockpiling, production, and transfer of anti-personnel landmines with a view to completing the negotiation as soon as possible.

On December 10, in the UN General Assembly, nations voted overwhelmingly (155-0) in favor of the U.S.-initiated resolution urging states to pursue an agreement to ban anti-personnel landmines.

Today we announced that, at the opening of the Conference on Disarmament on January 20, the United States will begin work with other member nations to initiate negotiations on an agreement to ban APL. This 61-member forum in Geneva, Switzerland includes most of the world's strongest landmine ban advocates and most of the world's major APL producers. It is

the forum in which the recently-signed Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty was negotiated, as well as the Chemical Weapons Convention.

APL Export and Transfer Ban

Since 1992, the United States has observed by law a temporary moratorium on the export and transfer of anti-personnel landmines, but this law expires in three years.

Today, we announced that the United States will observe a permanent ban on export and transfer of APL. We encourage all other nations to join us in a permanent ban on APL export and transfer to end forever the spread of these weapons.

APL Stockpile

As the President announced in May, the United States plans to destroy by the end of 1999 about three million non-self-destructing APL. Destruction of these mines is well underway. The United States will retain only those non-self-destructing APL needed for training and for defense in Korea.

Today we announced that the United States will cap its APL stockpile at the current level of inventory. We encourage other nations to do so as well.

APL Use Restrictions

On January 7, the President transmitted to the Senate for advice and consent to ratification the amended Mines Protocol to the 58-nation Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW). The United States led the effort to strengthen the Protocol, which establishes new norms that can protect civilians, even as countries work toward the goal of an APL ban.

The Protocol now expands the scope of the original Protocol to include internal armed conflicts, where most civilian mine casualties have occurred; requires that all remotely-delivered anti-personnel landmines be equipped with self-destruct and self-deactivation features to a very high degree of reliability; requires that all

non-self-destructing mines only be used within marked and monitored fields; and that all APL be detectable, to facilitate mine clearance.

Expanding Demining Capabilities

In May 1996, the President directed the Department of Defense to significantly expand its humanitarian demining program to train and assist other countries in developing effective demining programs.

The Department of Defense was also directed last May to undertake a substantial program to develop improved mine detection and clearing technology and to share this improved technology with the broader international community. Research and development funding for this effort was increased in Fiscal Year 1997 to $14.7m.

# # #

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1443
30 January 1997

Original: ENGLISH

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

Proposal

Draft mandate for an Ad Hoc Committee on a "Ban on Anti-Personnel Landmines"

The Conference on Disarmament decides to establish an Ad Hoc Committee under item ... of its agenda on a "Ban on Anti-Personnel Landmines" to negotiate, for conclusion at the earliest possible date, a universal, effectively verifiable and legally-binding international agreement to ban totally the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel landmines.

As a vital first step towards such an agreement, the Conference directs the Ad Hoc Committee to negotiate intensively a universal, effectively verifiable and legally-binding international agreement to ban totally the export, import or transfer of all types of anti-personnel landmines, as well as of their components and of anti-personnel landmine technology.

The Conference further directs the Ad Hoc Committee to consider and make recommendations on the further steps necessary to achieve the goal of a universal, effectively verifiable and legally-binding international agreement to ban totally the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel landmines.

GE.97-60142

Pursuant to its mandate, the Ad Hoc Committee will take into account the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects, in particular the amended Protocol II, as well as all relevant existing proposals and future initiatives.

The Conference requests the Ad Hoc Committee to report to the Conference on Disarmament on the progress of its work before the conclusion of the 1997 session.

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1444
4 February 1997

Original: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 29 JANUARY 1997 ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AUSTRIA TRANSMITTING THE "FEDERAL LAW ON THE BAN OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES" ADOPTED BY THE AUSTRIAN PARLIAMENT

I have the honour to transmit to you in the annex a working translation into English of the "Federal Law on the Ban of Anti-Personnel Mines" recently adopted by the Austrian Parliament.

Austria was a co-sponsor of United Nations General Assembly Resolution 51/45/S "An international agreement to ban anti-personnel landmines" adopted on 10 December 1996 and has observed an export-moratorium for anti-personnel mines since October 1994. In the course of the year 1995 Austria has destroyed completely its remaining stocks of anti-personnel mines. With the above mentioned Federal Law, Austria has now taken a further effective step on the national level in order to fulfil its solemn commitment to ban totally the use, stockpiling, production and transfer anti-personnel landmines.

On the multilateral level, Austria is a staunch supporter of the efforts to complete as soon as possible an effective, legally binding international agreement on a total ban of anti-personnel landmines. In this context, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that Austria has already distributed through its embassies a first tentative draft of such a convention and has invited comments thereon. As I have stated in my recent intervention in the Plenary of the Conference on Disarmament, Austria now - as a further step - invites all interested States to an expert meeting on the text of a convention on the total ban of anti-personnel mines. This meeting is going to take place in Vienna from 12th to 14th February 1997 and will proceed on the basis of the above mentioned first Austrian draft convention.

I would be grateful if the necessary arrangements could be made for this letter and its annex to be distributed as an official CD document to all delegations participating in the work on the Conference.

(Signed): **Harald Kreid**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

GE.97-60160

FEDERAL LAW ON THE BAN OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES
(Working translation)

DEFINITIONS

ARTICLE 1

In the context of this Federal Law:

1. „Anti-personnel mine" means a means of combat designed to be placed under, on or near the ground or other surface area and designed to detonate or explode by the presence, proximity or contact of persons,

2. „Anti-detection mechanism" means a device designed to bring an anti-personnel mine to explosion or detonation by the use of a mine-detecting device.

PROHIBITIONS

ARTICLE 2

The production, acquisition, sale, procurement, import, export, transit, use and possession of anti-personnel mines as well as of anti-detection mechanisms shall be prohibited.

RESTRICTIONS

ARTICLE 3

1. Mines earmarked exclusively for training purposes within the Federal Army or the Mine Clearance Service or the Explosives Disposal Service are not subject to the prohibition set out in Article 2.

2. The import, possession and the stockpiling of anti-personnel mines for the purpose of immediate delaboration or other ways of destruction are not subject to the prohibition set out in Article 2.

DESTRUCTION OF EXISTING STOCKPILES

ARTICLE 4

Existing stockpiles of anti-personnel mines or anti-detection mechnisms prohibited under Article 2 shall be reported to the Federal Ministry of the Interior within one month and shall be destroyed by the said ministry not later than one year after the entry into force of this Federal Law upon reimbursement of costs.

PENALTY

ARTICLE 5

Whoever, and even if only by negligence, contravenes the prohibition of Article 2 of this Federal Law, shall be sentenced to imprisonment for up to two years or a fine of up to 360 daily rates, if the offence is not subject to a more severe penalty under an other Federal Law.

CONFISCATION AND FORFEITURE

ARTICLE 6

1. Anti-personnel mines or anti-detection mechanisms as well as components therof which are object of an act punishable under Article 5 shall be confiscated by court order.

2. Machines and facilities used in the production of items under the prohibition set out in Article 2 can be declared forfeited by the court. They shall be secured at the owner's expense so that those items cannot be further used in contravention of the prohibition set out in Article 2.

3. Means used to transport items under the prohibition of Article 2 may be declared forfeited by the court.

4. Items under forfeiture according to paragraphs 2 and 3 shall become property of the Federation. Items confiscated under paragrph 1 shall become property of the Federation and must be reported to the Federal Ministry of the Interior for destruction in accordance with Article 4.

EXECUTION

ARTICLE 7

Entrusted with the execution of this Federal Law are:

1. With respect to Article 3, paragraph 1 the Federal Minister of the Interior and the Federal Minister of Defence,

2. with respect to articles 5 and 6 the Federal Minister of Justice and

3. with respect to the other provisions the Federal Minister of the Interior.

ENTRY INTO FORCE

ARTICLE 8

This Federal Law enters into force on 1 January 1997.

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1445
13 February 1997

Original: ENGLISH

JAPAN

Proposal to appoint a Special Coordinator on Nuclear Disarmament

The Conference on Disarmament appoints a Special Coordinator to conduct consultations with its members to identify the issue(s) in the field of nuclear disarmament which could be negotiated in the Conference and to report to the Conference on the result of these consultations no later than the conclusion of the 1997 session.

EXPLANATORY NOTES:

1. Japan considers the issue of nuclear disarmament to be a high priority for the Conference on Disarmament.

2. While the Conference may not necessarily take up every aspect of nuclear disarmament, it is clear that there exist appropriate issues in the field of nuclear disarmament to be negotiated in the Conference.

3. The Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty negotiations should commence immediately as the next item for negotiations in the Conference.

4. In addition to the Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty, the Conference should identify the issue(s) of nuclear disarmament to be negotiated in the future. Unfortunately the basic lines of thought for dealing with nuclear disarmament have continued to be divergent. Likewise, a convergence of views on the forum, or mechanism, in which to identify the issue has not yet evolved.

5. Under such circumstances, it is most practical for the Conference to have as flexible a mechanism as possible, in order to identify the issues for future negotiation(s). In this regard, a Special Coordinator can have bilateral, multilateral or any other form of consultations and discussions, and, thus, can provide an appropriate forum for nuclear disarmament talks in the Conference.

6. The Conference should not further delay addressing the issue of nuclear disarmament. On the contrary, the Conference should start its first step, even if a modest one, to explore various possibilities for nuclear disarmament negotiations.

GE.97-60182 (E).

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1446
14 February 1997

Original: ENGLISH

Agenda for the 1997 Session

(adopted at the 755th plenary meeting on 14 February 1997)

Taking into account, inter alia, the relevant provisions of the Final Document of the First Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, and pending the conclusion of its consultations on the review of its agenda, and without prejudice to their outcome, the Conference adopts the following agenda for its 1997 session:

1. Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament.

2. Prevention of nuclear war, including all related matters.

3. Prevention of an arms race in outer space.

4. Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

5. New types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons; radiological weapons.

6. Comprehensive programme of disarmament.

7. Transparency in armaments.

8. Consideration and adoption of the annual report and any other report, as appropriate, to the General Assembly of the United Nations.

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1447
17 February 1997

Original: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 17 FEBRUARY 1997 ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING A COPY OF A PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT ISSUED IN HONOR OF THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING FOR SIGNATURE OF THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO

Attached is a copy of a Presidential Statement issued in honor of the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Opening for Signature of the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

I would be grateful if you would issue the statement as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and distribute it to all members States and non-member participant States of the Conference.

(Signed): Stephen J. Ledogar
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

GE.97-60194

STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT CLINTON TO THE EXTRAORDINARY SPECIAL SESSION OF THE OPANAL GENERAL CONFERENCE ON THE OCCASION OF THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING FOR SIGNATURE OF THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO

I AM PLEASED TO SEND GREETINGS TO THE PARTICIPANTS IN THIS EXTRAORDINARY SPECIAL GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN. LET ME CONGRATULATE THE STATES PARTIES TO THE TREATY FOR THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO, ON THE OCCASION OF THE THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DATE THAT THE TREATY WAS OPENED FOR SIGNATURE.

FOR THIRTY YEARS, THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO HAS STOOD AS AN IMPORTANT BARRIER TO THE FURTHER SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN THIS HEMISPHERE. IT REFLECTS THE EXTRAORDINARY FORESIGHT OF ITS DRAFTERS, WHO WERE AMONG THE FIRST TO TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE POSED BY THE DANGERS OF SUCH PROLIFERATION AND TO CODIFY WHAT IS NOW AN INTERNATIONAL NORM OF NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION. THE UNITED STATES, AS A PARTY TO THE TWO ADDITIONAL PROTOCOLS, REMAINS A STRONG SUPPORTER OF THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO THAT HAS SERVED AS INSPIRATION AND MODEL FOR OTHER NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE ZONE TREATIES.

WE CELEBRATE THIS ANNIVERSARY AT A TIME OF UNPRECEDENTED PROGRESS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND DISARMAMENT. LAST FALL, I SIGNED FOR THE UNITED STATES THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR TEST BAN TREATY, WHICH WILL END ALL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE TESTS FOR ALL TIME AND WILL HELP TO PREVENT THE NUCLEAR POWERS FROM DEVELOPING MORE ADVANCED AND DANGEROUS WEAPONS. ALSO LAST YEAR, THE UNITED STATES AND THE OTHER NUCLEAR WEAPON STATES SIGNED THE PROTOCOLS TO THE TREATIES OF RARATONGA AND PELINDABA, ADDING OUR TANGIBLE SUPPORT TO THE NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE ZONES CREATED BY THESE AGREEMENTS IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC AND AFRICA. TWO YEARS AGO, THE PARTIES TO THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY AGREED TO EXTEND THAT TREATY INDEFINITELY, MAKING IT A PERMANENT PART OF THE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ARCHITECTURE.

ALL OF THESE ACCOMPLISHMENTS MAKE US MORE SECURE. AT THE SAME TIME, THEY MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO TAKE FURTHER STEPS TO LIFT THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND OTHER WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION. WE MUST CONTINUE TO BUILD ON THIS FOUNDATION WITH PATIENCE AND PERSEVERANCE. IT IS MY STRONG HOPE THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT WILL MOVE QUICKLY TO NEGOTIATE A BAN ON PRODUCING FISSILE MATERIAL FOR USE IN NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES. THE UNITED STATES ALSO IS PREPARED TO PURSUE FURTHER

REDUCTIONS AND LIMITS ON STRATEGIC NUCLEAR ARMS ONCE THE RUSSIAN DUMA APPROVES START II. AND WE MUST CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY AND THE SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY SAFEGUARDS THAT UNDERPINS BOTH THE NPT AND THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO.

THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO WAS AN HISTORIC AND EARLY STEP BY THE MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO STEM THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THE UNITED STATES IS COMMITTED TO DO ITS PART TO REDUCE AND ULTIMATELY ELIMINATE THE RISK OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN ALL REGIONS FOR ALL TIME.

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1448
13 March 1997

Original: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 11 MARCH 1997 ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE IN GENEVA TRANSMITTING A LETTER BY H.E. ZORAN THALER MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF SLOVENIA TO THE 1997 SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

Attached is a letter from H.E. Zoran Thaler, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, to the 1997 session of the Conference on Disarmament issued on 11 March 1997.

I would be grateful if this letter could be issued as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and distributed to all member States and non-member participant States of the Conference.

(Signed): Dr. Anton Bebler
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

GE.97-60611

Ljubljana, 11 March 1997

Dear Mr President,

Slovenia is a young country that obtained UN membership in May 1992. In the last five years of its independence, Slovenia achieved positive results in the process of political and economic transformation. Increasing cooperation with its neighbours and in the region enabled Slovenia to reach a high degree of economic and political stability. We believe that such a policy should be considered a contribution to lasting stability in the region.

After its successful transformation, Slovenia is now ready to take over not only its responsibility for regional arrangements, but also its share of responsibility for the international peace and stability.

For this reason Slovenia seeks membership in the Conference on Disarmament. Slovenia applied for membership in April 1993, in order to participate actively in the central role the Conference has in developing the infrastructure for disarmament machinery. Moreover, it is one of the strategic goals of Slovenia to join the Conference. We firmly believe that Slovenia is able to meet all expectations and work with other member states so as to give its full contribution to the fulfilment of the demanding tasks which await the Conference on Disarmament.

Disarmament continues to be among the most important areas in which the role of the Conference is fundamental. It can be said that in the recent years the Conference has solidified its leading and coordinating role in this area and proved to be the most important multilateral forum for disarmament affairs. The conclusion and the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the elaboration of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty bear witness to that.

The significance of the Conference is a fact which enables small nations like Slovenia to work on equal basis with other nations in the negotiations which lead towards the conclusion of international disarmament agreements. We consider membership in the Conference as a legitimate right of all states which want to present their views on disarmament and take their share of responsibility for a safer world of tomorrow. The enlargement of the Conference will allow even greater representation of views which are of critical importance to humanity.

We are pleased that many other governments share our opinion. The fact that more than 150 states in the UN General Assembly voted in favour of the resolution on the expansion of the Conference on Disarmament (Resolution A/C.1/51/L.1 rew.1) has proved our considerations to be right and widely accepted. Many countries already expressed their support to our application.

Within this context, Mr President, I would like to ask you to give active support to the application of the Republic of Slovenia for full membership in the Conference on Disarmament. My Government would like to contribute substantially to the successful work of the Conference by presenting its views on the issues of critical importance for the international community.

We expect the Conference to address the question of the enlargement as a matter of priority and to facilitate the full and early representation of the remaining applicant States in its work.

Please accept, Mr President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed): **Zoran THALER**

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1449
18 March 1997

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

LETTER DATED 17 MARCH 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT ON THE OCCASION OF THE ACCESSION OF A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE POST OF PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

I have the honour to forward to you a message from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation to the Conference on Disarmament in connection with the accession of a representative of the Russian Federation to the post of President of the CD.

Please take the necessary steps to have this document issued as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and distributed among the delegations of all member States of the Conference and non-member States of the Conference which are participating in its work.

(Signed) Grigori V. Berdennikov
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation
to the Conference on Disarmament

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE ACCESSION OF A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE POST OF PRESIDENT OF THE CD

Greetings to the participants in the session of the Conference on Disarmament.

The activities of the Conference on Disarmament - the sole forum in which practical talks on disarmament issues are conducted on a multilateral basis and in a global framework - are followed with attention and interest in Russia. Our country strives to contribute to the success of the work of the Conference, whose achievements have earned it well-deserved authority in the eyes of the world community. They include such important international instruments in the field of arms limitation and disarmament as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the Convention on the Prohibition of Biological and Toxin Weapons, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, etc.

I should like to assure the participants in the Conference that, in the post of President, Russia will do its utmost to ensure the success of the work of this forum.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) E. PRIMAKOV

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1450
20 March 1997

Original:ENGLISH

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Proposal on
The Programme of Work

1. The Conference on Disarmament decides, without prejudice to any future decisions on the organizational framework of other items, to establish:

I. An Ad Hoc Committee under agenda item 4 "Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons" with the mandate as described in CD/1121.

II. An Ad Hoc Committee under agenda item 7 to consider means of promoting transparency in armaments.

2. The Conference also decides to appoint a special coordinator to seek the views of its members on the most appropriate arrangement to deal with issues under agenda item 1.

3. The Conference decides further to appoint a special coordinator to seek the views of its members within agenda item 6 on the most appropriate arrangement to deal with the issues on which consensus could be achieved.

4. The special coordinators appointed under paragraphs 2 and 3 above shall present an interim report at the end of May and a final report not later than mid-June 1997 to the Conference.

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1451
26 March 1997

Original: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 24 MARCH 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SOUTH AFRICA ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING A PRESS STATEMENT DATED 20 FEBRUARY 1997 BY THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE CONCERNING THE POLICY OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT ON ANTI-PERSONNEL LANDMINES AND THE MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT MANDELA TO THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL NGO CONFERENCE ON LANDMINES, MAPUTO, 25 TO 28 FEBRUARY 1997

I have the honour to attach, for circulation in an official document of the Conference, a press statement dated 20 February 1997 by the Minister of Defence concerning the policy of the South African Government on anti-personnel landmines and the message from President Mandela to the Fourth International NGO Conference on Landmines, Maputo, 25 to 28 February 1997.

(Signed): J.S. Selebi
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

PRESS STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE, THE HON. MR J MODISE: SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT POLICY ON ANTI-PERSONNEL LANDMINES, PARLIAMENT, 20 FEBRUARY 1997

QUOTE

Members of the media,

Thank you for your attendance here today.

Together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I have called this press conference to announce the policy position of the South African Government on anti-personnel landmines.

I am pleased to inform you that, on my recommendation and motivation, Cabinet decided, on the 19th of February 1997, to ban the use, development, production and stockpiling of anti-personnel landmines - with immediate effect.

We thereby fully endorse the conviction of the International Committee of the Red Cross, that, and I quote:

> "The limited military utility of anti-personnel mines is far outweighed by the appalling humanitarian consequences of their use in actual conflicts.

On this basis their prohibition and elimination should be pursued as a matter of utmost urgency by governments and the entire international community".

Ladies and Gentlemen, in adopting this position, the South African Government, through our Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is reinforcing efforts to bring about a universal ban on these mines and their complete elimination.

We will resolutely pursue this objective, and do everything possible to encourage and influence governments and international institutions to adopt this position.

Out commitment in this respect is a matter of record since our accession to office.

In 1994 we announced a moratorium on the export of all land mines. This was followed, in 1996, by a complete ban on exports of all forms of land mines. And yesterday, the 19th of February 1997, this commitment was taken a step further when Cabinet decided on a total prohibition on the use, development, production and stockpiling of anti-personnel land mines - with immediate effect.

In terms of this decision, we will be preparing to destroy our stockpile of existing anti-personnel land mines, which amount to 160 000. We will be retaining a very limited and verifiable number of anti-personnel land mines, solely for training specific military

personnel in de-mining techniques and for research into assisting the de-mining process. All de-mining training and research will be carried out under the strictest government supervision and control.

I must stress, that until all countries have co-operated in eliminating all stockpiles of anti-personnel land mines, there is no guarantee that they may not be used. As long as the threat exists, our National Defence Force must be capable of dealing with the need to de-activate and clear this menace, and to neutralise it if we are confronted by it in an operational situation. It therefore follows that we must maintain the capability and skill required to perform that task.

Cabinet's decision reflects our determination to help rid the world of the problem of anti-personnel land mines. Each month these mines kill or maim some 2 000 victims around the world - the vast majority of whom are civilians. Their indiscriminate use has had a devastating effect - internationally, in Africa and in our region. In Angola, the number of amputations, resulting from anti-personnel mines, is, tragically, one of the highest in the world, and in Mozambique, thousands of these mines remain uncleared. The injuries from these mines impose an intolerable burden on civil society and a severe constraint on reconstruction and developmental needs.

A heavy responsibility lies on the more developed countries, capable of producing this weapon, to cease production, export and use.

This grave international problem can only be addressed by concerted international acting to restrict the availability and use of land mines, and to alleviate the suffering they cause.

We believe it is possible to confront the menace, and South Africa will do everything possible to assist in the eradication of anti-personnel land mines from the face of our globe.

On a practical level:

At the UN International Meeting on Mine Clearance, held in Geneva in 1995, South Africa pledged assistance to training programmes for the UN Stand-By Capacity for mine clearance - involving management of de-mining, mine lifting and mine awareness.

Regionally, we signed a Declaration of Intent with the Government of Mozambique in 1995, whereby both governments will co-operate in de-mining efforts.

And South Africa is assisting Angola through the training of de-mining personnel for the Angolan De-Mining Institute.

Furthermore, a South African company specialising in de-mining, is involved in de-mining activities in Angola in co-operation with the

United Nations.

In March 1996, we became a State Party to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects (and Protocols) - CCW - Which amongst other things, restricts the use of land mines.

In additional to the aforementioned measures, South Africa is a signatory to the Ottawa Declaration of October 1996 - working for a global ban on anti-personnel landmines.

And South Africa was one of the original co-sponsors of the December 1996 UN General Assembly Resolution - supported by 155 countries - on "An international agreement to ban anti-personnel landmines".

The ban I have announced today is an integral part of our Government's overall commitment to the promotion of international peace and security.

With this announcement, we give our fullest support and endorsement of the Fourth International NGO Conference of Land Mines, which will be held in Maputo, Mozambique, from 25 - 28 February 1997.

I pledge that we will do everything possible to help rid the world of the menace of the anti-personnel land mine.

I thank you.

UNQUOTE

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT NELSON MANDELA TO THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL NGO CONFERENCE ON LANDMINES, MAPUTO, 25 - 28 FEBRUARY 1997

QUOTE

The indiscriminate use of anti-personnel landmines has brought immense suffering to Africa. These terrible weapons are causing death and inhumane injuries to our people. They place severe constraints on reconstruction and development, particularly in rural areas. The legacy of millions of emplaced landmines in Southern Africa, particularly in Angola and Mozambique, have left areas uninhabitable and will pose significant challenges to the region's limited resources and great development needs.

This grave problem can only be addressed by concerted international action which deals with it in a comprehensive manner, and restricts the availability and use of landmines and alleviating the suffering they cause.

South Africa remains fully committed to the Ottawa Declaration we subscribed to in October 1996. In that context we would want to work with others to ensure the earliest possible conclusion of a legally-binding international agreement to ban anti-personnel landmines.

South Africa will furthermore do everything possible to assist in the eradication of anti-personnel landmines. In this regard I give our fullest support and endorsement of the Fourth International NGO Conference on Landmines.

Nelson Mandela
President
Republic of South Africa

UNQUOTE

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1452
27 March 1997

Original:ENGLISH

CHILE, FINLAND, POLAND

Proposal to appoint a
Special Coordinator on Anti-Personnel Landmines

1. The Conference on Disarmament decides to appoint a Special Coordinator to conduct consultations on the most appropriate arrangement to deal with the question of anti-personnel landmines under agenda item 6.

2. The Special Coordinator shall present a report to the Conference on Disarmament before the end of May 1997.

GE.97-60782

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1453
1 April 1997

Original:ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 27 MARCH 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF EGYPT ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING A WORKING PAPER FOR A POSSIBLE MANDATE OF AN AD-HOC COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Bearing in mind the highest priority attached to nuclear disarmament as reflected in SSOD I, and with reference to document CD/1388 dated 14 March 1996 concerning the proposal submitted by the G.21 for the establishment of an Ad-hoc Committee on nuclear disarmament, please find attached a Working Paper submitted by the Delegation of Egypt for a possible mandate of an Ad-hoc Committee on nuclear disarmament.

I would be grateful if you would issue this Working Paper as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed) : Ambassador
Mounir Zahran

GE.97-60800

Working Paper submitted by Egypt

Draft mandate for an Ad-hoc Committee on nuclear disarmament

The Conference decides to establish an Ad-hoc Committee under agenda item 1 on nuclear disarmament to commence negotiations on a phased programme of nuclear disarmament for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons and on a convention on the prohibition of the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and nuclear explosive devices taking into account the report of the special coordinator on this item (CD/1299) and the views relating to the scope of the treaty.

In discharging its function, the Ad-hoc Committee will take into account the Proposal for a Programme of Action for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons submitted by 28 members of the Conference belonging to the Group of 21 (CD/1419) as well as any other existing proposals and future initiatives in this regard.

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1454
13 May 1997

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

LETTER FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE FIRST SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS AND AN APPEAL TO THE CONFERENCE FROM THE STATE DUMA OF THE FEDERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

I have the honour to transmit to you a message from the President of the Russian Federation to the first session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, and a message to the Conference from the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation.

Please take the necessary steps to ensure that these documents are issued as official documents of the Conference on Disarmament and distributed to delegations of all States members of the Conference and those of non-member States of the Conference which are participating in its work.

(Signed) Grigory V. Berdennikov
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the Russian
Federation to the Conference on Disarmament

THE PRESIDENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

To the first session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

I send sincere greetings to the first session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

The entry into force on 29 April 1997 of the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the aim of which is the elimination of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction, is being marked with satisfaction in Russia. This treaty was the outcome of many years of work by the entire international community, in which our country was an active participant. The principal task of the current session is to ensure the safe launching of the Convention machinery, which will guarantee the effectiveness and universality of the treaty.

The Convention has been put before the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation for ratification. The parliament has already begun to work actively on the instrument. In its message to the Conference the State Duma has expressed its intention to complete the ratification process if possible in the autumn of the current year, while underlining the importance of taking into account issues of significance for Russia in the decisions of the Conference.

In the period leading up to ratification of the Convention, Russia intends to refrain from any actions which would detract from the purpose and goals of the Convention. Since the time of signature we have honoured, and will continue to honour, our obligations not to develop and not to produce chemical weapons; not to transfer them directly or indirectly to anyone; not to use chemical weapons; not to carry out any military preparations for their use, or to assist, encourage or induce anyone to engage in any activity prohibited under the Convention; and not to use chemical riot control agents as means of warfare. We have taken steps to ensure that toxic chemicals and their precursors are developed, produced and acquired, stored, transferred and used only for purposes not prohibited under the Convention. Preparations are also under way in Russia for the actual destruction of chemical weapons. Federal legislation for the elimination of such weapons has been adopted.

We intend to maintain close relations with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), and to discuss issues of cooperation with its leadership. Russia would be ready to provide OPCW with information on its stocks of chemical weapons and their location, and to take part in measures to provide assistance where possible in CW protection and in economic and research cooperation under articles X and XI of the Convention. It is our view that this will be facilitated by the establishment of machinery giving Russia an opportunity to participate in the drafting and adoption of decisions

taking into account its political and defence interests. All this would also create conditions for Russia's entry into OPCW in such a way that it could immediately play a full role in the organization's activities. I hope that the first session of the Conference will carefully address the issues we have raised.

I wish the participants in the first session success in their arduous efforts to settle matters before the Conference in the interests of peace and international security.

B. Yeltsin

Moscow, Kremlin, 6 May 1997

FEDERAL ASSEMBLY - PARLIAMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

APPEAL

FROM THE STATE DUMA

to the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction

On the occasion of the entry into force of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, referred to below as the Convention, and the opening of the first Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, referred to below as the Conference,

Affirming its commitment to the obligations assumed by the Russian Federation regarding the destruction of chemical weapons,

Wishing to contribute to the achievement of the goals of the Convention,

Acknowledging the need to rule out completely the possibility of the use of chemical weapons, in the interests of mankind as a whole,

Recognizing the enormous international significance of ratification of the Convention by the Russian Federation and the United States of America,

Appealing to the Conference in accordance with its powers,

The State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation:

Reaffirms its positive attitude to the need for the complete elimination of chemical weapons, as displayed in the adoption of the Federal Chemical Weapons Elimination Act by the State Duma on 25 April 1997;

Affirms that it has embarked on the process of ratification of the Convention, with the intention of completing the process if possible in the autumn of this year if the necessary conditions are met;

Notes that difficulties involved in the ratification of the Convention stem from the exceptionally serious economic situation in Russia, while forecasts for economic development in the near future make it impossible to count on a sharp increase in funding to tackle this problem;

Calls on the Conference to foster the creation of favourable conditions for speeding up the process of ratification of the Convention by the Russian Federation.

The State Duma considers that the following actions would facilitate completion of the process of ratification of the Convention by the Russian Federation:

An effort by the Conference to consider the possibility of extending the deadlines for elimination of chemical weapon stocks, and to take account of the interests of the Russian Federation when addressing other issues, including the procedure governing payment for inspection activities in order to reduce the financial burden on the receiving party, and the conversion of former CW production facilities;

A call on States parties to the Convention by the Conference for a substantial increase in financial assistance to the Russian Federation on the part of States parties to the Convention, and a search for additional sources of such assistance, inter alia using the financial capabilities of international organizations.

The State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation calls on the Conference to regard the circumstances preventing the Russian Federation from ratifying the Convention as cases of force majeure, and accordingly to help it, during the period pending ratification of the Convention by the Russian Federation, to play its due part in the drafting and adoption of key decisions, and to play its role in the governing and executive bodies of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

The State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation affirms that the decision on ratification of the Convention will also be taken in the light of the outcome of consideration of issues of significance to the Russian Federation at the first session of the Conference.

The State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation conveys to the Conference its wishes for fruitful work in the interests of peace and disarmament, and also expresses its hope for understanding and the constructive solution of the above-mentioned issues, thus facilitating ratification of the Convention by the Russian Federation.

Moscow
25 April 1997

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1455
15 May 1997

Original: ENGLISH

HUNGARY, JAPAN

Draft mandate for an Ad Hoc Committee on a "Ban on Anti-Personnel Landmines"

The Conference on Disarmament decides to establish an Ad Hoc Committee under item 6 of its agenda to negotiate an effective, legally-binding international agreement to ban the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel landmines.

GE.97.61168

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1456
15 May 1997

Original: ENGLISH

CANADA

Views on the Conference on Disarmament's agenda and programme of work

Current Debate

With regard to the three issues currently the major focus for debate Canada's position is:

Nuclear Weapons

The CD must address nuclear disarmament, it should establish a mechanism for the substantive discussion of nuclear disarmament issues with a view to identifying if and when one or more issues should be the subject of negotiation.

Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty

The CD should establish an Ad Hoc Committee to negotiate a ban on the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, based on the Shannon Paper and the mandate therein.

Anti-Personnel Landmines

Canada does not object to the proposal by Chile, Finland and Poland to appoint a Special Coordinator on Anti-Personnel Landmines.

CD Agenda/Work Programme

In putting forward the above current positions, Canada maintains its views on the CD Agenda/Work Programme as set out in its overview paper of January 21, 1997:

Proposed Work Programme

1. Weapons of Mass Destruction/Nuclear Disarmament

   - Prohibition of the Production of Fissile Material for Nuclear Weapons or Other Nuclear Explosive Devices

   - Effective International Arrangements to Assure Non-Nuclear-Weapon States Against the Use or Threat of Use of Nuclear Weapons

2. Conventional Disarmament

   - Transparency in armaments

   - Guidelines for Conventional Arms Transfers

3. Outer Space

   - Legally-binding Instrument to Prevent the Weaponization of Outer Space

4. Consideration and adoption of annual report and any other report, as appropriate, to the General Assembly of the United Nations

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1457/Corr.1
21 May 1997

ENGLISH ONLY

LETTER DATED 15 MAY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF INDIA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE SECTION ON "DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY" OF THE FINAL DOCUMENT ADOPTED AT THE XII MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE OF THE MOVEMENT OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES HELD IN NEW DELHI, 7-8 APRIL 1997

Corrigenda

Page 5, paragraph 60, line 11

For Article 1 of the read Article 1 and the

Page 9, paragraph 68, line 10

For 6 September 1991 read 6 December 1991

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1457
15 May 1997

Original: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 15 MAY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF INDIA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE SECTION ON "DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY" OF THE FINAL DOCUMENT ADOPTED AT THE XII MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE OF THE MOVEMENT OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES HELD IN NEW DELHI, 7-8 APRIL 1997

I have the honour to enclose herewith the section on 'Disarmament and International Security' (paras 54 to 71) of the Final Document adopted at the XII Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries held in New Delhi, 7-8 April, 1997.

I should be grateful if the enclosed document is circulated as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed) Arundhati Ghose

GE.97-61180

EXTRACTS FROM THE FINAL DOCUMENT ADOPTED AT THE XIIth MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE OF THE MOVEMENT OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES, NEW DELHI, APRIL 7-8, 1997

QUOTE

J DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

54. The Ministers noted that with the end of the cold war, there is no justification for nuclear arsenals, or concepts of international security based on promoting military alliances and policies of nuclear deterrence. While the end of the cold war had created unprecedented opportunities to promote this objective, regrettably there had been assertions which sought to justify continued reliance on nuclear doctrines, in certain cases against non-nuclear-weapon states. The Ministers recalled that the Cartagena Summit had called for the adoption of an Action Plan for the elimination of nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework. They called upon the international community to join them in negotiating and implementing universal, non-discriminatory disarmament measures and mutually agreed confidence-building measures.

55. The Ministers noted and welcomed the various international initiatives which stress that the opportunity now exists for the international community to pursue nuclear disarmament as a matter of the highest priority. They also noted that our present situation whereby nuclear-weapon states insist that nuclear weapons provide unique security benefits, and yet monopolize the right to own them, is highly discriminatory, unstable and cannot be sustained.

56. The declarations that nuclear weapons continue to offer security to the nuclear weapon states could contribute to the escalation of the nuclear threat and were contrary to their undertakings to fulfill nuclear disarmament obligations. Nuclear weapons continued to exist in massive numbers and in a state of operational readiness. It was imperative that security in the post-Cold War era should be promoted through drastic reductions in nuclear weapons and their eventual

elimination. They called for a series of agreed measures forming part of a programme for nuclear disarmament leading to a nuclear-weapon-free world.

57. The Ministers welcomed the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice that "there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control". They noted and welcomed the growing body of authoritative international opinion which stressed that nuclear disarmament should be pursued by the international community as a matter of the highest priority. They recalled that a number of NAM countries had taken collective initiatives at the 50th and 51st UNGA sessions to underscore the need for urgent action in the field of nuclear disarmament, as mandated at the Cartagena Summit. The Ministers welcomed the useful work that had been done by a number of NAM countries, members of the Conference on Disarmament, in developing an Action Plan for nuclear disarmament within a time-bound framework.

58. The Ministers:

- called on the Conference on Disarmament to establish, on priority, an adhoc committee to start negotiations on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified framework of time, including a Nuclear Weapons Convention. A universal and legally binding multilateral agreement should be concluded committing all States to the complete elimination of nuclear weapons;

- urged Nuclear Weapon States to agree to commence the negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a legally binding international instrument to provide unconditional assurances to all non-nuclear weapon states against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons,

Best copy available

- urged Nuclear Weapon States to agree to commence negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a legally binding international convention prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons under any circumstances, pending the complete elimination of nuclear weapons;

- supported the convening of the Fourth Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to disarmament; and

- expressed satisfaction at the work of the Working Group on Disarmament established by the NAM Coordinating Bureau in New York.

59. The Ministers noted with concern that, though the Chemical Weapons Convention will enter into force on 29 April, 1997, the two declared possessors of chemical weapons have still not ratified it, which jeopardises both the necessary universal and disarmament character of the Convention as originally conceived, which has been the guiding principle during the protracted negotiations through which the Convention was achieved. The Ministers emphasised that the First Conference of States Parties should adopt the appropriate measures towards ensuring that the Convention is operationalised in a fair, equitable and non-discriminatory manner that safeguards the principle of universality and the disarmament character integral to the Convention. The Ministers further emphasised that the outstanding issues before the Preparatory Commission needed to be satisfactorily resolved in order to ensure effective implementation of the Convention. In this context, they called on the developed countries to promote international cooperation through the transfer of technology, material and equipment for peaceful purposes in the chemical field and the removal of all existing multilateral as well as national discriminatory restrictions that

are contrary to the letter and spirit of the Convention.

60. In the context of ongoing deliberations to strengthen the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), the Ministers emphasised that, given the importance of biotechnology for economic development, any verification regime for the Biological Weapons Convention should contain specific provisions to safeguard the security and economic interests of the developing countries, parties to the BWC. The strengthening of the BWC should provide for ensured access for peaceful purposes to the relevant material, equipment and technologies for their economic growth. While asserting that the Biological Weapons Convention inherently precludes the use of biological weapons, the Ministers emphasized their support for the explicit prohibition of the use of these weapons in the Convention. In this connection the Ministers noted that the Islamic Republic of Iran has formally presented a proposal to amend Article I of the title of the Convention to include the prohibition of use of biological weapons and urged an early reply from the state signatories to the inquiries by the depositories on this proposal.

61. The Ministers reaffirmed that global and regional approaches to disarmament are complementary and could be pursued simultaneously. They urged States in various regions of the world to negotiate agreements to promote greater balance in conventional armaments and restraint in the production and acquisition of conventional arms and, where necessary, for their progressive and balanced reduction, with a view to enhancing international and regional peace and security. They stressed that the peaceful resolution of regional and inter-State disputes is essential for the creation of conditions which would enable States to divert their resources from armaments to economic growth and development. Regional disarmament initiatives, to be practical, needed to take into account the special characteristics of each region and enhance the security of every state of the region concerned. The question of accumulation of conventional weapons beyond the legitimate requirements of states for self-defence

should also be addressed, taking into account the special characteristics of each region

62. The Ministers considered the establishment of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones (NWFZs) as a positive step towards attaining the objective of global Nuclear Disarmament. They urged States to conclude agreements with a view to creating nuclear-weapon free zones in regions where they do not exist, in accordance with the provisions of the Final Document of SSOD-I. In this context, they welcomed the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones established by the Treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Pelindaba. The Ministers considered the question of the establishment of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones in other parts of the world and agreed that this should be on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the states of the region concerned and in conformity with the provisions of the Final Document of SSOD-I. The Ministers welcomed the effort of Mongolia to institutionalise its status as a nuclear-weapon-free zone.

63. The Ministers reiterated their support for the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction. To this end, the Ministers reaffirmed the need for the speedy establishment of a nuclear-weapons-free zone in the Middle East in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions adopted by consensus. They called upon all parties concerned to take urgent and practical steps towards the establishment of such a zone and, pending its establishment, they called on Israel, the only country in the region that has not joined the NPT nor declared its intention to do so, to renounce possession of nuclear weapons, to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) without delay, and to place promptly all its nuclear facilities under full-scope IAEA safeguards. They expressed great concern over the acquisition of nuclear capability by Israel which poses a serious and continuing threat to the security of neighbouring and other States and they condemned Israel for continuing to develop and stockpile nuclear arsenals. Stability can not be achieved in a region where massive imbalances in military capabilities are

maintained particularly through the possession of nuclear weapons which allow one party to threaten its neighbours and the region. They further welcomed the initiative by H.E. Mohammed Hosni Mubarak, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, on the establishment of a zone free from weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. They stressed that necessary steps should be taken in different international fora for the establishment of this zone. They also called for the total and complete prohibition of the transfer of all nuclear-related equipment, information, material and facilities, resources or devices and the extension of assistance in the nuclear-related scientific or technological fields to Israel.

64 The Ministers welcomed the signing of "The African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty" (Treaty of Pelindaba) in Cairo on 11 April, 1996 and affirmed that this treaty will further consolidate global efforts towards non-proliferation and contribute to the strengthening of international peace and security. The Ministers further affirmed that the establishment of NWFZs, especially in the Middle East, would enhance the security of Africa.

65 Consistent with the decisions adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference, the Ministers of States Parties to the NPT called upon all states, particularly the nuclear weapon states, to fulfill their commitments, particularly those related to Article VI of the Treaty. They also emphasised the need to ensure and facilitate the exercise of the inalienable right of all parties to the NPT to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination. Undertakings to facilitate participation in the fullest possible exchange of equipment, material and scientific and technological information for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy should be fully implemented. In this context, the Ministers of the States Parties to the NPT called upon the Preparatory Commissions up to and including the 2000 Review Conference of the NPT to engage immediately in substantive work for the meaningful implementation of the obligations under the

Treaty and the commitments in the 1995 Principles and Objectives document.

66. The Ministers of States signatories to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) took note of the opening of the CTBT for signature in 1996. They agreed that if the implications of the treaty are to be fully realized, the continued commitment of all State signatories, especially the nuclear weapon states, to nuclear disarmament will be essential.

67. The Ministers stated that in order to enhance international security and stability, all States Parties to non-proliferation, arms limitations and disarmament treaties should comply with and implement all provisions of such treaties. They emphasized that questions of non-compliance by States Parties should be resolved in a manner consistent with such treaties and international law. They further emphasized that any deviation from the role envisaged for the Security Council under the UN Charter or in certain circumstances under multilateral treaties on non-proliferation, arms limitation and disarmament would undermine the provisions of these treaties and conventions, including the inherent mechanisms for securing redress of violations of their provisions. Such deviations would also call into question the value of painstaking multilateral negotiations on disarmament and arms control treaties in the Conference on Disarmament. They underlined that circumventing or undermining the provisions of existing treaties will seriously prejudice the role of the Conference.

68. The Ministers expressed particular concern over the illicit transfer and the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and their accumulation in many countries, which constituted a threat to the population and to national and regional security and were a factor contributing to destabilization of states. They urged states to take steps to deal effectively, through administrative and legislative means, with the increasing problem of illicit transfers of weapons, particularly small arms, which exacerbate tensions leading to strife, conflict and terrorism and impact negatively on

the socio-economic development of affected countries. In this regard, they welcomed the adoption of guidelines in 1996 for international arms transfers in the context of General Assembly resolution 46/36H of 6 September 1991 by the UN Disarmament Commission.

69. The Ministers welcomed the various bans, moratoria and other restrictions already declared by States on anti-personnel landmines and the growing consensus against the indiscriminate use and transfer of anti-personnel landmines. They also took note of the efforts to eliminate them as early as possible. In this regard the Ministers welcomed the decision taken by the Central American countries to constitute their region as an anti-personnel landmines free zone. The Ministers underlined that any negotiations to ban landmines should take into account the legitimate national security concerns of States as well as their legitimate rights to use appropriate measures for self-defence. They called for urgent and specific measures to ensure that affected countries had full access to material, equipment, technology and financial resources for mine clearance. Access to non-lethal technologies being developed to perform the legitimate defensive role of landmines would help generate support for their elimination. The Ministers also called for continued humanitarian assistance for victims of landmines.

70. The Ministers expressed concern about the residue of the Second World War, particularly in the form of landmines which cause human and material damage and obstruct development plans in some Non-Aligned countries. They called on the States responsible for laying the mines outside their territories to assume responsibility for the landmines, to cooperate with the affected countries, to provide the necessary information, maps and technical assistance for their clearance, to contribute towards defrayal of the costs of clearance and provide compensation for any ensuing losses.

71. The Ministers noted with concern that undue restrictions on export to

developing countries of material, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes persist. The Ministers emphasized that proliferation concerns are best addressed through multilaterally negotiated, universal, comprehensive and non-discriminatory agreements. Non-proliferation control arrangements should be transparent and open to participation by all States and should ensure that they do not impose restrictions on access to material, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes required by developing countries for their continued development.

UNQUOTE

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1458
22 May 1997

Original: ENGLISH

AUSTRALIA

Draft Decision

Without prejudice to its ongoing efforts to establish the Programme of Work for its 1997 session and in order to facilitate them, the Conference on Disarmament decides:

1. To appoint a Special Coordinator to conduct consultations on the most appropriate arrangement to deal with the question of anti-personal landmines under agenda item 6.

2. The Special Coordinator shall take into consideration all relevant proposals, present and future.

3. The Special Coordinator shall present an early report to the Conference on Disarmament.

GE.97-61235

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1459
22 May 1997

Original: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 21 MAY 1997 ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, TRANSMITTING A SUMMARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERT MEETING ON POSSIBLE VERIFICATION MEASURES FOR A CONVENTION TO BAN ANTI-PERSONNEL LANDMINES, HELD IN KÖNIGSWINTER, GERMANY, ON 24 AND 25 APRIL 1997

I have the honour to refer to the statement made by the German delegation in the 762nd plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament on 27 March 1997 informing the Conference on the International Expert Meeting on possible verification measures for a convention to ban anti-personnel landmines on 24 and 25 April 1997 in Königswinter, Germany. The German Government welcomes the fruitful discussions during this expert meeting, in which 120 States participated, as a valuable impetus to the broad international discussion on the issue of the verification of a future convention banning anti-personnel landmines, as well as on the convention itself.

The German Government has announced its intention to forward the results of these discussions to the participating States as well as to international fora concerned with the mines problem. In consequence, I have the honour to attach a summary of the discussions during this expert meeting and would be very grateful if this summary could be issued as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and be distributed to delegations of all States Members of the Conference and of non-member States participating in the work of the Conference.

(Signed): Dr. Günther Seibert
Ambassador

International Expert Meeting on Possible Verification Measures for a Convention to Ban Anti-Personnel Landmines
Königswinter, 24 and 25 April 1997
SUMMARY

In Resolution 51/45 S, which was supported by 156 states, the UN General Assembly called for an "effective, legally binding international agreement to ban the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel landmines with a view to completing the negotiations as soon as possible". In the international debate aimed at such an agreement the question of its verification proved to be complex and difficult. It became clear that it was necessary to discuss this issue in greater detail.

On Germany's initiative the "International Expert Meeting on Possible Verification Measures for a Convention to Ban Anti-Personnel Landmines", which was to discuss the components of a possible verification system without entering into negotiations, therefore took place in Königswinter on 24 and 25 April 1997. In its invitation, Germany had agreed to draw up a short summary of the discussion not binding on the participants.

Just under half of the 120 participating states took part in the exchange of views by presenting statements. Some states pointed out that silence on individual areas of the discussion does not imply consent. The expert meeting gave further impetus to the broad international discussion on the issue of the verification of a future convention banning APL, as well as of the convention itself. The starting-point for the exchange of views was an option paper on verification submitted by Germany which included tried and tested elements from arms-control treaties (information exchange, routine and challenge inspections). A number of states circulated position papers. In the main, the exchange of views went as follows:

There was widespread agreement that, in view of the urgency of resolving the humanitarian problems caused by the irresponsible use of anti-personnel landmines, it is essential that an international convention on the comprehensive banning of anti-personnel landmines (use, production, stockpiling, export) be concluded as soon as possible. Two different approaches were put forward on the nature of the envisaged convention. While some delegations regarded the

convention primarily as an international humanitarian treaty, others considered it to be mainly an arms control agreement. These differing basic approaches also marked the debate on verification.

The advocates of a humanitarian convention spoke in favour of the quickest possible conclusion of a binding international convention banning anti-personnel landmines. In their view, traditional verification systems, such as the ones designed for weapons of mass destruction, cannot be applied due to the special nature of the APL (small, easy to transport, weapons of defence rather than attack from a tactical point of view). Essentially verification had to be restricted to voluntary measures by states. This would mean limiting it to a loose network of transparency and co-operation measures, regular revision of the treaty, international co-operation, information exchanges, as well as systematic reporting. Violations of convention provisions should, in addition, be deterred by means of national penal provisions.

In contrast, a number of states held the view that, despite its humanitarian character, the envisaged convention banning anti-personnel landmines had to be regarded partly, if not largely, as an arms-control instrument. Although the military effectiveness of APL was questionable and utterly out of proportion with the humanitarian consequences of their use, relinquishing an entire category of weapons would still represent a disarmament measure. Transparency and confidence were most likely to develop if the observance of treaty provisions were to be made verifiable through a reliable and detailed verification system.

Numerous states spoke in favour of an efficient and cost-effective verification system which takes into account the special requirements of this category of weapons. Several participants named the following elements as possible components of a verification system, in some cases with reference to arrangements in other conventions (e.g. CWC, CCW):

- transparency through a comprehensive information exchange by way of a reporting system subject to time-limits and, as a prerequisite to this, an obligation to take effective legislative and administrative implementation measures;

- co-operation and consultation among the states parties to resolve substantive issues and disputes;

- prosecution of treaty violations as well as regular revision of the efficiency of the convention with the possibility of renegotiation;

- fact-finding on the ground in order to monitor the national measures taken within the framework of transparency and, where there is sufficient evidence, to follow up on treaty violations;

- inclusion of the United Nations in verification.

During the debate some support began to emerge for a middle course combining comprehensive co-operation and transparency measures with the possibility of effective fact-finding. Important areas of a future convention - production, export, use, destruction of stockpiles and the treatment of minefields - may require differentiated verification measures. Routine inspections were given little chance of realization in statements at the conference.

The representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross advocated a verification regime on a voluntary basis. The ICBL representatives argued in favour of a slim-line regime and referred to their proposals of December 1996 on formulating a verification regime. The representative of the United Nations emphasized that the Austrian draft treaty as well as various elements discussed at the conference assigned to the Secretary-General as depositary tasks which exceeded what has hitherto been the norm. The international community could, he said, provide for such an arrangement in a convention but would then have to equip the Secretary-General to fulfil the tasks assigned to him, not least financially.

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1460
26 May 1997

ENGLISH
Original: ENGLISH and RUSSIAN

LETTER DATED 14 MAY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING FOUR DOCUMENTS SIGNED AT THE JOINT U.S.-RUSSIAN SUMMIT MEETING IN HELSINKI, FINLAND, ON 21 MARCH 1997, NAMELY: A JOINT STATEMENT ON PARAMETERS ON FUTURE REDUCTIONS IN NUCLEAR FORCES, A JOINT STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION CONCERNING THE ANTI-BALLISTIC MISSILE TREATY, A JOINT U.S.-RUSSIAN STATEMENT ON EUROPEAN SECURITY AND A JOINT STATEMENT ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS

Attached are four documents signed at the joint U.S.-Russian summit meeting in Helsinki, Finland, on March 21, 1997. The documents are (1) a Joint Statement on Parameters on Future Reductions in Nuclear Forces, (2) a Joint Statement by the Presidents of the United States of America and the Russian Federation Concerning the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, (3) a Joint U.S.-Russian Statement on European Security, and (4) a Joint Statement on Chemical Weapons.

We would be grateful if you would issue these four documents together as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and distribute it to all member States and non-member participant States of the CD.

(Signed): Katharine C. Crittenberger
Permanent Representative
of the United States to the
Conference on Disarmament

(Signed): Grigori V. Berdennikov
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Russian Federation
to the Conference on
Disarmament

JOINT STATEMENT ON PARAMETERS ON FUTURE REDUCTIONS IN NUCLEAR FORCES

Presidents Clinton and Yeltsin underscore that, with the end of the Cold War, major progress has been achieved with regard to strengthening strategic stability and nuclear security. Both the United States and Russia are significantly reducing their nuclear forces. Important steps have been taken to detarget strategic missiles. The START I Treaty has entered into force, and its implementation is ahead of schedule. Belarus, Kazakstan and Ukraine are nuclear-weapon free. The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty was indefinitely extended on May 11, 1995 and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty was signed by both the United States and Russia on September 24, 1996.

In another historic step to promote international peace and security, President Clinton and President Yeltsin hereby reaffirm their commitment to take further concrete steps to reduce the nuclear danger and strengthen strategic stability and nuclear security. The Presidents have reached an understanding on further reductions in and limitations on strategic offensive arms that will substantially reduce the roles and risks of nuclear weapons as we move forward into the next century. Recognizing the fundamental significance of the ABM Treaty for these objectives, the Presidents have, in a separate joint statement, given instructions on demarcation between ABM systems and theater missile defense systems, which will allow for deployment of effective theater missile defenses and prevent circumvention of the ABM Treaty.

With the foregoing in mind, President Clinton and President Yeltsin have reached the following understandings.

Once START II enters into force, the United States and Russia will immediately begin negotiations on a START III agreement, which will include, among other things, the following basic components:

- Establishment, by December 31, 2007, of lower aggregate levels of 2,000-2,500 strategic nuclear warheads for each of the parties.

- Measures relating to the transparency of strategic nuclear warhead inventories and the destruction of strategic nuclear warheads and any other jointly agreed technical and

organizational measures, to promote the irreversibility of deep reductions including prevention of a rapid increase in the number of warheads.

- Resolving issues related to the goal of making the current START treaties unlimited in duration.

- Placement in a deactivated status of all strategic nuclear delivery vehicles which will be eliminated under START II by December 31, 2003, by removing their nuclear warheads or taking other jointly agreed steps. The United States is providing assistance through the Nunn-Lugar program to facilitate early deactivation.

The Presidents have reached an understanding that the deadline for the elimination of strategic nuclear delivery vehicles under the START II Treaty will be extended to December 31, 2007. The sides will agree on specific language to be submitted to the Duma and, following Duma approval of START II, to be submitted to the United States Senate.

In this context, the Presidents underscore the importance of prompt ratification of the START II Treaty by the State Duma of the Russian Federation.

The Presidents also agreed that in the context of START III negotiations their experts will explore, as separate issues, possible measures relating to nuclear long-range sea-launched cruise missiles and tactical nuclear systems, to include appropriate confidence building and transparency measures.

Taking into account all the understandings outlined above, and recalling their statement of May 10, 1995, the Presidents agreed the sides will also consider the issues related to transparency in nuclear materials.

FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

FOR THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION:

Helsinki

March 21, 1997

JOINT STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION CONCERNING THE ANTI-BALLISTIC MISSILE TREATY

President Clinton and President Yeltsin, expressing their commitment to strengthening strategic stability and international security, emphasizing the importance of further reductions in strategic offensive arms, and recognizing the fundamental significance of the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty for these objectives as well as the necessity for effective theater missile defense (TMD) systems, consider it their common task to preserve the ABM Treaty, prevent circumvention of it, and enhance its viability.

The Presidents reaffirm the principles of their May 10, 1995 Joint Statement, which will serve as a basis for reaching agreement on demarcation between ABM systems and theater missile defense systems, including:

-- The United States and Russia are each committed to the ABM Treaty, a cornerstone of strategic stability.

-- Both sides must have the option to establish and to deploy effective theater missile defense systems. Such activity must not lead to violation or circumvention of the ABM Treaty.

-- Theater missile defense systems may be deployed by each side which (1) will not pose a realistic threat to the strategic nuclear force of the other side and (2) will not be tested to give such systems that capability.

-- Theater missile defense systems will not be deployed by the sides for use against each other.

-- The scale of deployment -- in number and geographic scope -- of theater missile defense systems by either side will be consistent with theater ballistic missile programs confronting that side.

In this connection, the United States and Russia have recently devoted special attention to developing measures aimed at assuring confidence of the Parties that their ballistic missile defense activities will not lead to circumvention of the ABM Treaty, to which the Parties have repeatedly reaffirmed their adherence.

The efforts undertaken by the Parties in this regard are reflected in the Joint Statement of the Presidents of the United States and Russia issued on September 28, 1994, as well as in that of May 10, 1995. Important decisions were made at the United States-Russia summit meeting on April 23, 1996.

In order to fulfill one of the primary obligations under the ABM Treaty -- the obligation not to give non-ABM systems capabilities to counter strategic ballistic missiles and not to test them in an ABM mode -- the Presidents have instructed their respective delegations to complete the preparation of an agreement to ensure fulfillment of this requirement.

In Standing Consultative Commission (SCC) negotiations on the problem of demarcation between TMD systems and ABM systems, the United States and Russia, together with Belarus, Kazakstan and Ukraine, successfully finished negotiations on demarcation with respect to lower-velocity TMD systems. The Presidents note that agreements were also reached in 1996 with respect to confidence-building measures and ABM Treaty succession. The Presidents have instructed their experts to complete an agreement as soon as possible for prompt signature on higher-velocity TMD systems.

Neither side has plans before April 1999 to flight test, against a ballistic target missile, TMD interceptor missiles subject to the agreement on demarcation with respect to higher velocity TMD systems. Neither side has plans for TMD systems with interceptor missiles faster than 5.5 km/sec for land-based and air-based systems or 4.5 km/sec for sea-based systems. Neither side has plans to test TMD systems against target missiles with MIRVs or against reentry vehicles deployed or planned to be deployed on strategic ballistic missiles.

The elements for the agreement on higher-velocity TMD systems are:

- The velocity of the ballistic target missiles will not exceed 5 km/sec.

- The flight range of the ballistic target missiles will not exceed 3500 km.

- The sides will not develop, test, or deploy space-based TMD interceptor missiles or components based on other physical principles that are capable of substituting for such interceptor missiles.

- The sides will exchange detailed information annually on TMD plans and programs.

The Presidents noted that TMD technology is in its early stages and continues to evolve. They agreed that developing effective TMD while maintaining a viable ABM Treaty will require continued consultations. To this end, they reaffirm that their representatives to the Standing Consultative Commission will discuss, as foreseen under the ABM Treaty, any questions or concerns either side may have regarding TMD activities, including matters related to the agreement to be completed on higher-velocity systems, which will be based on this joint statement by the two Presidents, with a view to precluding violation or circumvention of the ABM Treaty. These consultations will be facilitated by the agreed detailed annual information exchange on TMD plans and programs.

The Presidents also agreed that there is considerable scope for cooperation in theater missile defense. They are prepared to explore integrated cooperative defense efforts, inter alia, in the provision of early warning support for TMD activities, technology cooperation in areas related to TMD, and expansion of the ongoing program of cooperation in TMD exercises.

In resolving the tasks facing them, the Parties will act in a spirit of cooperation, mutual openness, and commitment to the ABM Treaty.

FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

William J. Clinton

FOR THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION:

Helsinki

March 21, 1997

JOINT U.S.-RUSSIAN STATEMENT ON EUROPEAN SECURITY

Presidents Clinton and Yeltsin discussed the present security situation in the Euro-Atlantic region. They reaffirmed their commitment to the shared goal of building a stable, secure, integrated and undivided democratic Europe. The roles of the United States and Russia as powers with worldwide responsibilities place upon them a special requirement to cooperate closely to this end. They confirmed that this cooperation will be guided by the spirit of openness and pragmatism which has increasingly come to characterize the U.S.-Russian relationship in recent years.

Recalling their May 1995 Joint Statement on European Security, the Presidents noted that lasting peace in Europe should be based on the integration of all of the continent into a series of mutually supporting institutions and relationships that ensure that there will be no return to division or confrontation. No institution by itself can ensure security. The Presidents agreed that the evolution of security structures should be managed in a way that threatens no state and that advances the goal of building a more stable and integrated Europe. This evolution should be based on a broad commitment to the principles of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe as enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act, the Budapest Code of Conduct and other OSCE documents, including respect for human rights, democracy and political pluralism, the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all states, and their inherent right to choose the means to ensure their own security.

The Presidents are convinced that strengthening the OSCE, whose potential has yet to be fully realized, meets the interests of the United States and Russia. The Presidents expressed their satisfaction with the outcome of the Lisbon Summit of the OSCE and agreed on the importance of implementing its decisions, both to define further the goals of security cooperation and to continue to devise innovative methods for carrying out the growing number of tasks the OSCE has assumed.

They underscored their commitment to enhance the operational capability of the OSCE as the only framework for European security cooperation providing for full and equal participation of all states. The rule of consensus should remain an inviolable basis for OSCE decision-making. The Presidents reaffirmed their commitment to work together in the ongoing OSCE effort to develop a modal for security in Europe which takes account of the radically changed situation on the eve of the 21st century and the decisions of the Lisbon Summit concerning a charter on European security. The OSCE's essential role in Bosnia and Herzegovina and its ability to develop new forms of peacekeeping and conflict prevention should also be actively pursued.

In their talks in Helsinki, the two Presidents paid special attention to the question of relations between the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the Russian Federation. They continued to disagree on the issue of NATO enlargement. In order to minimize the potential consequences of this disagreement, the Presidents agreed that they should work, both together and with others, on a document that will establish cooperation between NATO and Russia as an important element of a new comprehensive European security system. Signed by the leaders of the NATO countries and Russia, this document would be an enduring commitment at the highest political level. They further agreed that the NATO-Russia relationship, as defined in this document, should provide for consultation, coordination and, to the maximum extent possible where appropriate, joint decision-making and action on security issues of common concern.

The Presidents noted that the NATO-Russia document would reflect and contribute both to the profound transformation of NATO, including its political and peacekeeping dimension, and to the new realities of Russia as it builds a democratic society. It will also reflect the shared commitment of both NATO and Russia to develop their relations in a manner that enhances mutual security.

The Presidents recalled the historic significance of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe in establishing the trust necessary to build a common security space on the continent in the interest of all states in Europe, whether or not they belong to a military or political alliance, and to continue to preclude any destabilizing build-up of forces in different regions of Europe.

The Presidents stressed the importance of adapting the CFE Treaty. They agreed on the need to accelerate negotiations among CFE parties with a view to concluding by late spring or early summer of 1997 a framework agreement setting forth the basic elements of an adapted CFE Treaty, in accordance with the objectives and principles of the Document on Scope and Parameters agreed at Lisbon in December 1996.

President Yeltsin underscored Russian concerns that NATO enlargement will lead to a potentially threatening build-up of permanently stationed combat forces of NATO near to Russia. President Clinton stressed that the Alliance contemplates nothing of the kind.

President Yeltsin welcomed President Clinton's statements and affirmed that Russia would exercise similar restraint in its conventional force deployments in Europe.

President Clinton also noted NATO's policy on nuclear weapons deployments, as articulated by the North Atlantic Council on December 10, 1996, that NATO members have "no intention, no plan and no reason" to deploy nuclear weapons on the territory of states that are not now members of the Alliance, nor do they foresee any future need to do so. President Clinton noted NATO's willingness to include specific reference to this policy in the NATO-Russia document. President Yeltsin spoke in favor of including such a reference in the document.

The Presidents agreed that the United States, Russia and all their partners in Europe face many common security challenges that can best be addressed through cooperation among all the states of the Euro-Atlantic area. They pledged to intensify their efforts to build on the common ground identified in their meetings in Helsinki to improve the effectiveness of European security institutions, including by concluding the agreements and arrangements outlined in this statement.

FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

FOR THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION:

Helsinki

March 21, 1997

JOINT STATEMENT ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS

President Clinton and President Yeltsin discussed issues relating to the entry into force of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction. They stressed the commitment of the United States and Russia to full and effective accomplishment of the tasks and objectives of the Convention.

The Presidents reaffirmed their intention to take the steps necessary to expedite ratification in each of the two countries. President Clinton expressed his determination that the United States be a party when the Convention enters into force in April of this year, and is strongly urging prompt Senate action. President Yeltsin noted that the Convention had been submitted to the Duma with his strong recommendation for prompt ratification.

Mindful of their special role and responsibility in the matter of chemical disarmament, the United States and Russia understand that their participation in the Convention is important to its effective implementation and universality.

The Presidents noted that cooperation between the two countries in the prohibition of chemical weapons has enabled both countries to enhance openness regarding their military chemical potential and to gain experience with procedures and measures for verifying compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention. The Parties will continue cooperation between them in chemical disarmament.

The United States will seek appropriation of necessary funds to build a facility for the destruction of neuroparalytic toxins in Russia as previously agreed.

FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:

William J. Clinton

FOR THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION:

Helsinki

March 21, 1997

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1461
28 May 1997

Original: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 22 MAY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CANADA ADDRESSED TO THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING TWO PUBLICATIONS ENTITLED "SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS: AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY" AND "ANTI-PERSONNEL LAND MINES BAN: AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY" 1/

I have attached two publications produced by the Canadian Government, which I hope will further advance our consideration of the issues before us: "Small Arms and Light Weapons: An Annotated Bibliography" and "Anti-Personnel Land Mines Ban: An Annotated Bibliography".

I would be grateful if the necessary arrangements could be made for distribution of these two publications to all member and participating non-member state delegations, under cover of a CD number.

(Signed): Mark Moher
Permanent Representative to
the Conference on Disarmament

1/ A limited distribution of these publications in English only has been made available to the members and non-members invited to participate in the work of the Conference on Disarmament.

GE.97-61319

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1462
5 June 1997

Original: ENGLISH

GROUP OF 21

Proposal on the Programme of Work

1. The Conference on Disarmament decides to establish:

   I. An Ad Hoc Committee for agenda item 1 "Cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament".

   II. An Ad Hoc Committee for agenda item 3 "Prevention of an arms race in outer space".

   III. An Ad Hoc Committee for agenda item 4 "Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons".

2. The Conference decides to appoint a Special Coordinator to seek the views of its members on agenda item 6 "Comprehensive programme of disarmament" with a special reference to the issue of anti-personnel landmines.

3. The Conference also decides to appoint a Special Coordinator to seek the views of its members on agenda item 7 "Transparency in armaments".

4. The Conference decides further to appoint Special Coordinators to carry out consultations on the issues of its expansion and agenda as well as improved and effective functioning.

* * * * *

The Group of 21 continues to attach the highest priority to the establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee on Nuclear Disarmament under agenda item 1.

The Group of 21 has presented on 14 March 1996 a proposal for the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, as contained in document CD/1398.

In this context, a specific proposal on a mandate for the Ad Hoc Committee will be presented in the near future.

GE.97-61508

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1463
12 June 1997

Original: ENGLISH

ALGERIA, BANGLADESH, BRAZIL, CAMEROON, COLOMBIA, CUBA, DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA, EGYPT, ETHIOPIA, INDIA, INDONESIA, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, IRAQ, KENYA, MEXICO, MONGOLIA, MYANMAR, NIGERIA, PAKISTAN, PERU, SENEGAL, SRI LANKA, SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC, VENEZUELA, VIET NAM AND ZIMBABWE

Proposed mandate for an Ad Hoc Committee on Nuclear Disarmament

The Conference decides to establish an Ad Hoc Committee under agenda item 1 on nuclear disarmament to commence negotiations on a phased programme of nuclear disarmament for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified framework of time.

In discharging its function, the Ad Hoc Committee will take into account the Proposal for a Programme of Action for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons submitted by 28 members of the Conference belonging to the Group of 21 (CD/1419, 7 August 1996) as well as any other existing proposals and future initiatives in this regard.

The Ad Hoc Committee will establish working groups to negotiate, as a first step a universal and legally-binding multilateral agreement committing all States to the objetive of complete elimination of nuclear weapons, an agreement on further steps required in a phased programme with time frames leading to the total elimination of nuclear weapons, and a convention on the prohibition of the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and nuclear explosive devices taking into account the report of the special coordinator on this item (CD/1299) and the views relating to the scope of the treaty.

Working Groups will report to the Ad Hoc Committee on a regular basis or as necessary on the progress of their work. The Ad Hoc Committee will report to the Conference on Disarmament on the progress of its work before the conclusion of the 1997 session.

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1464
17 June 1997

Original: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 17 JUNE 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ITALY ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING A STATEMENT OF THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT ON THE POLICY ON ANTI-PERSONNEL LANDMINES ISSUED ON 13 JUNE 1997

I have the honour to transmit to you the text of a statement issued by the Italian Government on 13 June 1997 on the Policy on Anti-personnel Landmines.

I would be grateful if this text could be registered as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and distributed to all member States and non-member States participating in the work of the Conference.

(Signed): Giuseppe Baldoni Acqua
Ambassador

STATEMENT OF THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT ON THE POLICY ON ANTI-PERSONNEL LANDMINES ISSUED ON 13 JUNE 1997

To integrate the measures already adopted on the ban of production and export of APLs and the initiation of their destruction, the Italian Government agreed on the opportunity to renounce to the operational use of anti-personnel landmines. The decision, which responds to the needs expressed by the internal and international public opinion, has been adopted in order to contribute to reaching a solid international understanding and a definitive solution to the problem caused by APLs.

To this end, consistently with the relevant resolutions of the UN General Assembly as well as with the objectives of the E.U., Italy will continue to actively operate in the framework of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva and to follow the "Ottawa Process" so that - through the complementarity of the actions in the two Fora - the International community be able to design a set of effective norms supported by the largest possible number of States.

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1465
19 June 1997

Original: ENGLISH

AUSTRALIA

Draft Decision

Without prejudice to, and within the context of, its urgent ongoing efforts to establish a Programme of Work for its 1997 session and to set up mechanisms, as appropriate, for other agenda items of the Conference, and in order to facilitate these efforts, the Conference on Disarmament decides:

1. To appoint a Special Coordinator to conduct consultations on a possible mandate on the question of anti-personnel landmines under agenda item 6.

2. The Special Coordinator shall take into consideration all relevant proposals and views, present and future.

3. The Special Coordinator shall present an early report to the Conference on Disarmament.

GE.97-61888

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1466
26 June 1997

Original: ENGLISH

DECISION

(adopted at the 770th plenary meeting on 26 June 1997)

Without prejudice to, and within the context of, its urgent ongoing efforts to establish a Programme of Work for its 1997 session and to set up mechanisms, as appropriate, for other agenda items of the Conference, and in order to facilitate these efforts, the Conference on Disarmament decides:

1. To appoint a Special Coordinator to conduct consultations on a possible mandate on the question of anti-personnel landmines under agenda item 6.

2. The Special Coordinator shall take into consideration all relevant proposals and views, present and future.

3. The Special Coordinator shall present an early report to the Conference on Disarmament.

GE.97-62073

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1467
16 July 1997

ENGLISH
Original: ENGLISH and FRENCH

LETTER DATED 9 JULY 1997 ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT BY THE OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BELGIUM TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT, TRANSMITTING THE CLOSING DOCUMENT OF THE BRUSSELS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR A GLOBAL BAN ON ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES

The Office of the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the Geneva Conference on Disarmament presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament and has the honour to transmit below the closing document of the Brussels International Conference for a Global Ban on Anti-Personnel Mines.

This document contains the final Declaration of the Conference and the statement introducing it made by Mr. Erik Derycke, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Belgium. Also annexed is the report made to Mr. Erik Derycke by Mr. André Mernier, Ambassador, Secretary-General of the Conference, after the first two days.

The Office of the Permanent Representative of Belgium requests the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament to make the necessary arrangements for these documents to be circulated as official documents of the Geneva Conference on Disarmament.

DECLARATION FOR THE BRUSSELS CONFERENCE ON ANTI-PERSONNEL LANDMINES

The following States met in Brussels from 24 to 27 June 1997 to pursue an enduring solution to the urgent humanitarian crisis caused by anti-personnel landmines. They are convinced that this solution must include the early conclusion of a comprehensive ban on anti-personnel landmines.

They recall that United Nations General Assembly resolution 51/45 S supported by 156 States urged the vigorous pursuit of "an effective, legally binding international agreement to ban the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel landmines".

In that spirit they affirm that the essential elements of such an agreement should include:

- a comprehensive ban on the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel landmines
- the destruction of stockpiled and removed anti-personnel landmines
- international cooperation and assistance in the field of mine clearance in affected countries.

The following States,

Encouraged by the work of the Brussels Conference,

Encouraged further by numerous national and regional initiatives and measures taken to eliminate anti-personnel landmines,

Encouraged by the attention given to this subject by the United Nations and by other forums,

Encouraged, finally, by the active support of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and numerous other non-governmental organizations,

Welcome the convening of a Diplomatic Conference by the Government of Norway in Oslo on 1 September 1997 to negotiate such an agreement;

Also welcome the important work done by the Government of Austria on the text of a draft agreement which contains the essential elements identified above and decide to forward it to the Oslo Diplomatic Conference in order to be considered together with other relevant proposals which may be put forward there;

Affirm their objective of concluding the negotiation and signing of such an agreement banning anti-personnel landmines before the end of 1997 in Ottawa;

Invite all other States to join them in their efforts towards such an agreement.

Annex 1

STATEMENT BY MR. ERIK DERYCKE, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

Your Excellencies,

Distinguished Heads of Delegations,

Distinguished Delegates,

We are now on the point of closing the work of the Brussels Conference. It was the Conference's intention that its debates should culminate in a political declaration, the text of which was circulated well before the Conference and was familiar to everybody.

I have pleasure in announcing that today 97 countries have acceded to this Declaration and thus given their support to the objectives of the Ottawa Process, indicating their desire to arrive at a treaty by the end of December 1997.

I would fail in my duties as President if I did not underline at this decisive moment of the Brussels Conference the considerable interest many times repeated by a large number of delegations in victim assistance. I consider as President of this Conference and as Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belgium that this constitutes an essential element of the Ottawa Process.

The Declaration of the Brussels Conference is adopted.

The Declaration will be published, together with the statement I have just made introducing it and the list of countries that have associated themselves with it.

This Declaration, my statement and the list of countries that have associated themselves with the Declaration will be sent to you through the usual diplomatic channels.

Annex 2

LIST OF COUNTRIES ASSOCIATING THEMSELVES WITH THE POLICY DECLARATION OF THE BRUSSELS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR A GLOBAL BAN ON ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES

27 June, 9.30 a.m.

1. Angola
2. Antigua and Barbuda (CARICOM)
3. Austria
4. Bahamas (CARICOM)
5. Barbados (CARICOM)
6. Belgium
7. Belize (CARICOM)
8. Benin
9. Bolivia
10. Bosnia and Herzegovina
11. Botswana
12. Brazil
13. Burkina Faso
14. Cambodia
15. Cameroon
16. Canada
17. Cape Verde
18. Chad
19. Colombia
20. Costa Rica
21. Côte d'Ivoire
22. Croatia
23. Czech Republic
24. Denmark
25. Dominica (CARICOM)
26. Ecuador
27. El Salvador
28. Ethiopia
29. Fiji
30. France
31. Gabon
32. Germany
33. Ghana
34. Grenada (CARICOM)
35. Guatemala
36. Guinea
37. Guyana (CARICOM)
38. Haiti
39. Holy See
40. Honduras
41. Hungary
42. Ireland
43. Italy
44. Jamaica (CARICOM)
45. Jordan

46. Lesotho
47. Liechtenstein
48. Luxembourg
49. Malawi
50. Malaysia
51. Mali
52. Malta
53. Mauritania
54. Mexico
55. Monaco
56. Mozambique
57. Namibia
58. Netherlands
59. New Zealand
60. Nicaragua
61. Norway
62. Panama
63. Papua New Guinea
64. Paraguay
65. Peru
66. Philippines
67. Portugal
68. Qatar
69. Republic of the Congo
70. Republic of Moldova
71. Rwanda
72. Saint Kitts and Nevis (CARICOM)
73. Saint Lucia (CARICOM)
74. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (CARICOM)
75. San Marino
76. Senegal
77. Seychelles
78. Slovakia
79. Slovenia
80. South Africa
81. Spain
82. Sudan
83. Suriname (CARICOM)
84. Swaziland
85. Sweden
86. Switzerland
87. Tanzania
88. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
89. Togo
90. Trinidad and Tobago (CARICOM)
91. Turkmenistan
92. United Kingdom
93. Uruguay
94. Venezuela
95. Yemen
96. Zambia
97. Zimbabwe

Annex 3

Brussels International Conference for a Comprehensive Ban on Anti-Personnel Mines
(24-27 June 1997)

Report by Mr. Mernier, Ambassador, on the results of the work of the first part of the Conference

Your Excellency,

Distinguished Delegates,

At the end of the first part of the Brussels International Conference for a Comprehensive Ban on Anti-Personnel Mines, I have the honour to report to you on the work of the last two days.

With more than 150 States participating, the Brussels International Conference has shown, insofar as there was any need for it, the vitality and appeal of the Ottawa Process. At this stage in the proceedings, it seems we are ready to move on from the political phase to the negotiation phase.

The Brussels Conference constitutes an important step leading up to the Diplomatic Conference which will start in Oslo on 1 September next. We are very pleased to inform you that this morning more than 79 countries have already expressed their support for the Brussels Declaration and we wish to thank all those countries for having done so. May I stress that, having put the credibility level at 45, we are pleased with this magnificent result.

Our discussions of the past two days have provided a most valuable starting point for the Oslo Diplomatic Conference, together with the draft treaty prepared by Austria, the quality of which was recognized by all.

But the purpose of our meeting here in Brussels was not to engage in an actual drafting exercise, and I have to emphasize that a number of countries have reserved both their comments and detailed language proposals for the Oslo Conference.

Nevertheless, I shall attempt to sum up the principal points which came up during the past two days. As I mentioned yesterday, this summary does not pretend to be exhaustive. You will also understand that I cannot refer to any particular national point of view. In this spirit, no country will be named, no delegation will be quoted.

One very fundamental issue pertains to the nature of the future APL-treaty and its relationship to other instruments of international law. As several delegations phrased it, should we look upon the treaty as a humanitarian act or see it as a disarmament instrument?

The first part of our debates dealt with the general obligations under our treaty. Everyone recognized that they had been spelt out quite clearly in the relevant resolution of the United Nations General Assembly, resolution 51/45 S. None of the delegations that spoke on the subject questioned the absolute necessity of including in the treaty a ban on the use, production and stockpiling of anti-personnel mines and on trade in them. No exception was envisaged in this field, except perhaps for purposes of instruction. There then arose the question of the quantity of mines that each State would be allowed to have for troop training. A consensus seems to be within reach on distinguishing here between the number per type of mines from the number as such, it being well understood that deminers have to have available to them a maximum number of types of mines, with technical characteristics that can vary considerably. In the same spirit, it seems possible to agree on an exception with regard to the trade in mines, since in many cases it will be necessary to buy a limited number of new mines abroad, always for the purpose of training deminers. The core of the treaty was thus not called in question during the debate on general obligations.

The Brussels Conference then considered definitions and exceptions. As far as definitions were concerned, the Conference remembered that a number of definitions were available in Protocol II to the Inhuman Weapons Convention, which have moreover left their mark on the Austrian draft text.

Several delegations nevertheless pointed out that those definitions could not be taken over just as they stood and that in view of the radical nature of the treaty the Ottawa Process was aiming at, the definitions available in the amended Protocol II would need to be adapted. Certain delegations also noted that the definition of "anti-personnel landmine" itself had not been taken over in extenso and that that change was not without implications, implications which would have to be weighed and studied at the Oslo Conference.

Another problem of definition which occupied delegates' attention for quite some time related to minefields and mined areas. With your permission I shall return to this matter when I deal with the problem of the destruction of mines in this context.

The Conference also concerned itself with the problem of exceptions. Obviously, some exceptions have to be allowed for. You are already familiar with two of them, since it seems we can envisage without too much difficulty an exception to the ban on stockpiling and an exception to the ban on trade, so as to enable deminers to have the number and types of mines they need for training purposes.

Other exceptions that would affect the very core of the treaty could not be introduced into the text without profoundly altering the nature of the Ottawa Process. Use and production obviously cannot be the subject of exceptions. The same is true of stockpiling and trade with the exception I have just mentioned.

We then considered the destruction of stocks, and delegations were largely agreed that this was a corollary, both essential and symbolic, of the ban on stockpiling anti-personnel mines.

The deadlines for the destruction of stocks will have to be negotiated, however, since this process obviously poses budgetary and environmental problems that are far from negligible.

The scale of these problems inevitably imposes constraints, which will vary from one country to another, on the process of fixing the necessary deadlines for compliance with this obligation. The Conference has heard from a number of delegations representing countries that are already engaged in this operation. International, or at the very least regional, cooperation to destroy existing mine stocks under the best possible conditions seems to be an essential element in the solution of this question. Here again, it might be possible to permit anti-personnel mines to be taken across frontiers in order to be destroyed without regarding it as a real exception. That would not constitute, in the proper sense, trade in or transfer of anti-personnel mines under the terms of the definition of transfer given in Protocol II. This possibility will have to be studied before provision can be made for it in the treaty.

Another aspect of the destruction of anti-personnel mines that you asked us to study is that of mines already in place. The Conference recognized that this was one of the most complex problems that the Ottawa treaty would have to resolve. The distinction between mined areas and minefields as proposed in the amended Protocol II, while it is a useful guide, needs to be taken further and made more precise. Some delegations also pointed out that the need to deal with mines in place would have to be weighed against the cost. The cost to be considered is not just financial, although since the resources available are limited, choices will inevitably have to be made: the cost also has to take into account the dangers run by deminers compared with the expected benefits of demining.

Still, there is a large consensus that in the field and in the text there should be a distinction between existing minefields laid, fenced and monitored by regular armies and mined areas where mines are suspected to be present. In practice, however, this distinction is sometimes very difficult to make. So we must be ready to recognize that some cases constitute a grey area.

On this topic it is also clear that all mines removed from minefields or mined areas will have to be destroyed as quickly as possible if that destruction has not been realized in the minefield itself.

Obviously, the destruction of mines already in place is a more difficult subject than the destruction of stockpiled mines. It will be an important subject of negotiations during the Oslo Conference.

The next topic which was discussed by delegations was international cooperation and assistance. This was mentioned in the Brussels Conference Declaration as an essential non-negotiable element of the global ban on anti-personnel landmines. It was recognized that if the ban on use and

production combined with the destruction of stocks could secure a better future, the purpose of the Ottawa Process was also to solve the consequences of the legacy of the past. To do so, international cooperation has been recognized not only as essential but also as indispensable. This cooperation will have to be multifaceted: exchanges of technologies, exchanges of demining teams will have to be part of it, but this will not suffice. Various delegations have shared their regional or national experience with the Conference. I recall for example the experience presented by Central American countries. International cooperation could also take the form of joint efforts for destruction of stocks or exchange of geographical data about previously laid minefields.

The necessity and the difficulties of finding the financial resources were also stressed by many delegations. The international community will have to encourage its members to do more and to coordinate its efforts.

This concern is embodied in the draft text which has guided our work. It seems, however, that here again there is still considerable work to be done, because to deal with the unfortunate legacy of anti-personnel mines will demand substantial sacrifices on all sides. Aid to victims should be an integral part of this process. We had been able, not just through our discussions, but also through the showing of videos and our visit to the very interesting exhibition at the Musée de l'Armée, to get an idea of the extent of the tragedy and of the difficulty and the urgent necessity of finding solutions to it that are both humane and effective.

The debate also focused on confidence-building measures, and more generally on the implementation of the treaty. Several delegations stressed that we should be guided first and foremost by humanitarian concerns. Others felt that even if the humanitarian dimension remained in the forefront, the disarmament aspects could not be ignored. That could have important implications for confidence-building and transparency measures.

The Austrian text provides for an exchange of information among States parties on the measures taken by each of them in pursuance of the treaty. The usefulness of such exchanges was generally recognized. The same text also proposes that figures should be supplied. How many anti-personnel mines have we? Of what type? How far have the destruction programmes got? Obviously, publication of such information would help to build confidence among States parties.

But some people want to go further and, following the logic of disarmament treaties, would like a more comprehensive system which would permit effective monitoring of the implementation of the Ottawa treaty.

On this matter, there could thus be a difference of opinion, and a choice will have to be made on the extent to which we recognize the disarmament dimension in the future treaty.

We ended with a presentation of the Oslo Conference by the Norwegian delegation, which enlightened us all about the immediate future of the Ottawa Process. All the comments made over the past two days have in fact been put forward in that perspective and will therefore have been very useful.

The adoption of the Brussels Declaration tomorrow will be an essential element in the process. The Declaration mentions the main points in the treaty, fixes the date for its signature and transmits the Austrian draft to the Oslo Conference. In this Declaration, we shall thus have defined the objectives of the negotiations, the basis on which they are to be conducted and the date by which they are to reach a conclusion.

I would appeal for as many delegations as possible to associate themselves with this Declaration, which is truly the key to the final negotiations.

I thus conclude my report on the first two days of the Brussels Conference and have pleasure in giving the floor back to the Minister.

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1468
22 July 1997

Original: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 15 JULY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING A COPY OF THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY ON THE "ISSUE OF ANTI-PERSONNEL LANDMINES AND INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO REACH A TOTAL BAN", AND THE REPORT ON THE FIRST CONTINENTAL CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN EXPERTS ON LANDMINES HELD IN KEMPTON PARK, SOUTH AFRICA, FROM 19-21 MAY 1997

I have the honour to enclose herewith a copy of the report of the OAU Secretary-General on the Issue of Anti-Personnel Mines and International Efforts to Reach a Total Ban (Doc.CM/2009(LXVI) and the report on the first Continental Conference of African Experts on Landmines held in Kempton Park, South Africa, from 19-21 May 1997.

I should be grateful if the enclosed documents are circulated as official documents of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed): T J B Jokonya
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

GE.97-63420

"**CM/Dec.363 (LXVI)** - **Report of the Secretary-General on the Issue of Anti-Personnel Mines and International Efforts to Reach a Total Ban (Doc. CM/2009(LXVI**

Council:

(a) **TAKES NOTE** of the Report.

(b) **REAFFIRMS** all its previous resolutions on the question of anti-personnel mines, especially resolutions CM/Res.1593 (LXII) and CM/Res.1628 (LXIII);

(c) **ENDORSES** the Plan of Action adopted by the First continental conference of African Mine Experts held in Kempton Park, South Africa, from 19 to 21 May 1997, and **COMMENDS** the OAU Secretary-General for this laudable initiative in that connection;

(d) **RECOGNIZES** the contribution of the establishment of sub-regional anti-personnel mines free-zones to the ultimate goal of achieving a total ban at the level of the African Continent;

(e) **STRESSES** the need that the problem of mines be addressed in a coordinated, multi-faceted and balanced manner banning comprehensively anti-personnel mines and intensifying efforts and actions with regard to mine-clearance and mine victim assistance especially in Africa;

(f) **ADOPTS** as a goal the elimination of anti-personnel mines in Africa and the establishment of Africa as an anti-personnel mines - Free Zone;

(g) **URGES** Member States to fully and actively participate in the Ottawa process, particularly the meetings scheduled for Brussels (24 - 27 June, 1997), Oslo (September 1997) and Ottawa at which a treaty for the total prohibition of anti-personnel mines is expected to be signed;

(h) **CALLS ON** all Member States to adhere as early as possible to the 1980 United Nations Convention on prohibition or restriction on the use of certain weapons which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects, and its protocol II if they have not already done so, and **APPEALS** to all

Member States to adhere to the amended protocol II as well as the new Protocol IV on blinding laser weapons;

(i) **APPEALS** to the International Community to render to the affected African countries all necessary assistance to enable them to effectively carry out mine clearance and mine victim assistance operations, and facilitate implementation of the Kempton Park Plan of Action through increased mobilization of resources;

(j) **UNDERSCORES** the moral responsibility of the countries which masterminded the emplacement of mines in Africa during the Second World war and/or colonial conflicts and **URGES** the said countries to devote a part of their resources, in particular, a reasonable percentage of their military budget to mine clearance and assistance to mine victims in the affected African countries;

(k) **CALLS UPON** those countries responsible for infesting the African countries with mines to provide those affected countries with all necessary information on demining including data, technical assistance, assessment of surveys specially maps as well as the movement of illegal mine transfers;

(l) **REITERATES** the urgency and the need for inter-African cooperation in mine clearance and assistance to mine victims, and **EMPHASIZES** the primordial role to be played by the OAU in coordinating actions in those areas, as part of implementation of the plan of Action;

(m) **REQUESTS** the Secretary-General to monitor implementation of the present resolution as well as the Kempton Park Plan of Action, and submit a report thereon to the next ordinary session of the Council of Ministers. "

PLAN OF ACTION OF THE FIRST CONTINENTAL CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN EXPERTS ON LANDMINES

The first Continental Conference of African Experts on Landmines was held in Kempton Park, the Republic of South Africa, from 19 to 21 May 1997. The Conference, which was attended by 40 Member States of the OAU, UN specialised agencies, a wide spectrum of representatives of the donor community and Non-Governmental Organizations, adopted the following Plan of Action:

I. ON POLICY ON LANDMINES

The Conference discussed African policies on anti-personnel landmines, the momentum towards a global ban on anti-personnel landmines, legal aspects of humanitarian law pertaining to landmines, landmine free-zones with reference to the Organization of American States (OAS) and an African landmine-free-zone.

Within the framework of the implementation of the relevant Organization of African Unity (OAU) resolution, participants agreed:

1. To stress the need that the problem of landmines be addressed in a coordinated and multi-faceted manner banning comprehensively anti-personnel landmines and intensifying efforts with regard to mine-clearance and mine victim assistance.

2. To adopt as a goal the elimination of anti-personnel landmines in Africa and the establishment of Africa as an Anti-Personnel Landmine-Free-Zone.

3. All States should end all deployments of anti-personnel landmines and to establish national prohibitions such as those already adopted on the African continent on their use, production, stockpiling, transfer and their destruction.

4. Urged all States to participate actively in the Brussels Conference, 24-27 June 1997, the Oslo Conference in September 1997, which is integral to the process leading to the negotiation and signature of a legally binding international agreement to ban ant-personnel landmines in Ottawa in December 1997.

5. For those States which are not yet Parties, to adhere to the 1980 United Nations Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), including the Protocol II on landmines (as amended on 3 May 1996); for current States party to this Convention to adhere to its amended Protocol II at the earliest possible date to ensure its earliest possible entry into force.

6. To promote the strongest possible resolution on the banning of anti-personnel landmines to be considered by Heads of State

and Government at the OAU Summit Meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe, 2-4 June 1997.

II. ON MINE CLEARANCE

The Conference discussed at length mine clearance issues which included the building of national capacities for mine clearance, setting local priorities, standards and technologies and inter-African cooperation.

Noting the crucial link between the drive for the total ban of mines and mine clearance, the participants agreed as follows:

1. In building capacity for mine clearance there is a need to create national, subregional and regional coordinating and strategic planning bodies. Subregional organizations such as SADC, IGAD and others and also the OAU could play such a role. Further, national capacities for mine clearance should be simple, manageable and sustainable.

2. The challenge in demining is the development of institutions rather than mine clearance itself; full attention should, therefore, be devoted to this task.

3. Data bases should be established at the national, sub-regional and regional levels; which would create the necessary management information system on the extent of mine problems, on techniques of demining, on results of demining, the assessment of surveys and the movement of illegal mine transfers.

4. At present demining is a slow process - methods and technology must be created to increase the rate of demining; with regards to this, the need for the employment of integrated technology is of importance.

5. The task of mine clearance in Africa is so vast that the public sector and commercial enterprises should operate in parallel reinforcing each other's efforts. Further, the Armed Forces of African States should be allowed to play a proper role in demining.

6. There is a need to involve national authorities, at various levels in the building of national capacities.

7. In building capacities finance will be a critical constraint. Hence there is need to exert efforts to mobilize financial resources. But requests for financial assistance should be backed by appropriate project feasibility studies.

8. The aim of mine awareness should be to reduce mine risk through the adoption of sustainable safe behaviour, and to ensure the close involvement of the affected community and to

ensure that priorities in mine awareness programmes are set by the members of the community themselves; lessons learned and experiences gained must be institutionalized, and interactive communication must be adopted.

9. Efficient and effective demining efforts should be made to develop standards and guidelines for deminers and independent quality assurance and quality control established.

10. For successful demining inter-African cooperation is seen as a vital and a crucial element; such cooperation should cover such areas as political/diplomatic action, logistics, technical, financial, clearing operations, research and development as well as the transfer of technology.

III. ON LANDMINE SURVIVORS ASSISTANCE

The Conference discussed a wide range of issues relating to landmine survivors assistance. The following aspects, inter alia, were covered:

- Rehabilitation and Social Reintegration
- Training
- Resources: human, facilities, funds
- Development of (a) database(s)

Against the background of efforts to achieve a total ban on anti-personnel mines, and to clear Africa of existing landmines, the participants agreed as follows:

1. Governments in Africa, and the OAU, should address the plight of victims and survivors and take renewed cognizance of their problems with a view to meeting the health and social needs of all landmine survivors in Africa.

2. To be optimally effective in bringing more and higher quality assistance to landmine survivors in the long term, a structured flow and analysis of information about the entire mine problem in any given country was needed.

3. Priorities for the allocation of scarce resources amongst mine clearance projects, community mine awareness programmes, and the provision for the health and social needs of landmine survivors can only be set by cooperative and coordinated efforts on the part of:

   - Local authorities and national governments
   - The OAU and its specialised agencies, such as ARI
   - The UN system and its agencies
   - The NGO community
   - The ICRC and National Red Crescent or Red Cross Societies.

4. To urge governments to adopt a policy aiming at the establishment of national Mine Information Systems.

5. To urge governments to include the active participation of landmine survivors in the formulation, the decision making process and the execution of national policy and legislation in respect of articles that affect them. Concomitantly, survivors should influence their governments' positions in the formulation of international humanitarian treaties.

6. To encourage communities and the health services of mine-infected countries to maintain and increase their readiness to deal with mine injuries long after armed conflict has ended, while building their social and institutional capacities to deal with an ever increasing number of disabled.

7. The relevant regional and national institutions to co-ordinate their efforts and to exchange information on their available medical facilities and capacities and to provide modes of accessing them through a central African clearing-house in order to improve and increase assistance to landmine survivors.

8. To increase support to all training centres and institutes for the combined or joint use of all medical, social, psychological and other relevant measures and to organise regular regional and continental training sessions for civilian and/or military health workers on the treatment and rehabilitation of the mine-injured.

9. In order to meet the psychological and social needs of mine survivors, Governments should quantify the numbers of survivors and encourage local NGOs or National Red Cross/Red Crescent societies to initiate appropriate programmes, with the support of international partners, to increase access to medical care and rehabilitation for all victims and survivors in countries at war or affected by landmines in the post-conflictual period.

10. Governments should establish national Support Funds for landmine survivors and international donors should contribute to these Funds.

IV. ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND FINANCE

On international cooperation and finance, the Conference:

1. Reiterated the appeal of the OAU to the International Community, International financial agencies, and the private sector working in the military field to provide African countries affected by mines with all the necessary assistance for the demining of their countries. As an essential component of the efforts towards the elimination of mines,

this assistance should comprise financial and technical components as well as the training of deminers.

2. Underscored the moral responsibility of the powers which laid the mines during the Second World War and independence wars, and wished that these powers should devote a reasonable percentage of their military budget to mine clearance in the concerned African countries.

3. Underlined the need for international cooperation, including close South South cooperation, in order to support effort towards demining and assistance to victims with a view to accelerating the realisation of the objectives of total elimination of mines.

4. Requested the General Secretariat of the OAU, bearing in mind the experience of other International Organisations, to establish a mechanism to enhance the mobilisation of International Community so as to assist the African countries affected by anti-personnel landmines.

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1469
24 July 1997

Original: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 22 JULY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF INDONESIA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING A PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDONESIA ON 18 JULY 1997 CONCERNING THE SUBCRITICAL NUCLEAR WEAPON EXPERIMENT CONDUCTED BY THE US GOVERNMENT ON 2 JULY 1997

I have the honour to forward herewith the unofficial translation of the Press Release issued by the Government of the Republic of Indonesia on 18 July 1997 concerning the subcritical nuclear weapon experiment conducted by the US Government on 2 July 1997.

I would be grateful if this Press Release could be registered as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and distributed for information to all members and non-members States participating in the work of the Conference.

(Signed) : Agus Tarmidizi
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

GE.97-63591

Unofficial Translation

PRESS RELEASE

1. The Government of the Republic Indonesia expresses its deep concern over the subcritical underground nuclear weapon experiment conducted by the US administration on 2 July 1997. Even though in legal terms such an experiment is not prohibited by the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), signed on 24 September 1996, the conduct of that experiment is in principle inconsistent with the "faith and spirit" enshrined in the treaty. Furthermore, such an experiment is not conducive to the ongoing efforts to achieve a general and complete disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, which in this post Cold War era is being consistently pursued by all nations.

2. Although the experiment was said to be primarily aimed at enhancing safety and reliability, its other purpose was undoubtedly to increase the quality of the existing nuclear weapons. The conduct of such an experiment could encourage other technologically advanced countries to follow suit and would therefore undermine the objective and purpose of the CTBT. All the signatory states of the CTBT admitted that the ultimate goals of this treaty are to limit the development and qualitative improvement of nuclear weapons, to end the development of advanced new types of nuclear weapons, to contribute to the prevention of nuclear proliferation and to strengthen international peace and security.

3. During the early stages of the CTBT negotiations, the government of Indonesia had firmly stated its position that the treaty should also cover the prohibition of subcritical experiment. However, in the spirit of compromise and for the sake of consensus Indonesia had eventually withdrawn this position. Therefore such an experiment whisch had been carried out undermined Indonesia's spirit of cooperation which was clearly evident during the conclusion of the CTBT negotiation.

4. In view of the above, the government of the Republic of Indonesia appeals to the US administration to reconsider its decision and to cancel the series of such subcritical experiments which had been planned. At the same time the government of Indonesia also appeals to other countries to apply self-restraint in this matter. Indonesia is fully confident that the prevention of nuclear weapons proliferation as well as complete nuclear disarmament can be achieved only with full commitment and good-will of all states, in particular the nuclear weapon states.

Jakarta, 18 July 1997

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1470
5 August 1997

Original: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 4 AUGUST 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CANADA ADDRESSED TO THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING A PUBLICATION ENTITLED "CONFIDENCE BUILDING IN THE ARMS CONTROL PROCESS: A TRANSFORMATION VIEW" BY JAMES MACINTOSH 1/

I have the honour to transmit to you a new Canadian publication, entitled "Confidence Building in the Arms Control Process: A Transformation View" by James MacIntosh.

I would be grateful if the necessary arrangements could be made for its distribution to all member and participating non-member state delegations, under cover of a CD number.

(Signed): Mark Moher
Permanent Representative to
the Conference on Disarmament

1/ A limited distribution of these publications in English only has been made available to the members and non-members invited to participate in the work of the Conference on Disarmament

GE.97-63752

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1471
5 August 1997

Original: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 4 AUGUST 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CANADA ADDRESSED TO THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING A PUBLICATION ENTITLED "NON-PROLIFERATION AGREEMENTS, ARRANGEMENTS AND RESPONSES: PROCEEDINGS OF THE 1996 CANADIAN NON-PROLIFERATION WORKSHOP" BY THE CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL AND SECURITY STUDIES, YORK UNIVERSITY, TORONTO (CANADA)1/

I have the honour to transmit to you a new Canadian publication, entitled "Non-Proliferation Agreements, Arrangements and Responses: Proceedings of the 1996 Canadian Non-Proliferation Workshop" by the Centre for International and Security Studies, York University, Toronto (Canada).

I would be grateful if the necessary arrangements could be made for its distribution to all member and participating non-member state delegations, under cover of a CD number.

(Signed): Mark Moher
Permanent Representative to
the Conference on Disarmament

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GE.97-63758

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1472
13 August 1997

ENGLISH
Original: ENGLISH and
RUSSIAN

NOTE VERBALE DATED 13 AUGUST 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKSTAN ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF THE STATEMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKSTAN ON THE DECISION OF THE GOVERNMENT CONCERNING THE PROHIBITION OF EXPORT OF ANTI-PERSONNEL LANDMINES

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakstan to the United Nations Office in Geneva presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and has the honour to inform the latter of the decision of the Government of the Republic of Kazakstan dated 6 August 1997, concerning the prohibition of export of anti-personnel landmines, including re-export and transit.

Kazakstan shares the grave concern of many within the international community over the long-term and pernicious effects of the widespread use of anti-personnel mines.

The need to mobilize the international community to address this issue is widely recognized and Kazakstan has consistently supported the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly calling for a moratorium on the export of anti-personnel mines.

The Office of the Permanent Mission of Kazakstan would be grateful if the Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakstan concerning this decision could be registered as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and distributed for information to all member and non-member States participating in the work of the Conference.

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Kazakstan

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is authorized to state that by a resolution dated 6 August 1997 the Government of the Republic of Kazakstan has imposed a ban on the export of anti-personnel landmines, including re-export and transit.

Kazakstan shares the growing concern of the international community at the huge losses caused among the civilian population through the use of anti-personnel mines. In over 70 different countries, 110 million mines are still maiming and killing the civilian population every day. That is why anti-personnel mines have been dubbed "delayed-action weapons of mass destruction".

This serious problem, which is worldwide in scope, can only find a solution through joint international action to limit the use of anti-personnel mines and access to them, and in due course to forbid their use.

The unilateral moratorium introduced by the Government of the Republic of Kazakstan provides support for the relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and is an expression of our country's commitment to the cause of strengthening international peace and security.

Almaty, 11 August 1997

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1473
15 August 1997

Original: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 14 AUGUST 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CHILE ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF A PROPOSAL ENTITLED: "SUGGESTIONS FOR UPDATING THE CD's RULES OF PROCEDURE", INCLUDING A "PROPOSED DRAFT"

Attached is the text of a proposal of Chile entitled: "Suggestions for updating the CD's Rules of Procedure", including a "Proposed Draft".

I would be grateful if you would issue this text as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and distribute it to all member States and non-member participants in the work of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed): Javier Illanes
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

GE.97-63799

CHILE

Suggestions for updating the CD's Rules of Procedure

The origins of the Conference on Disarmament are implicit in the decision adopted in 1959 by the foreign affairs ministers of France, the United Kingdom, the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in order to establish a negotiating forum, independent of the United Nations system, but linked to it. The ten Nations Disarmament Committee (TNDC) (5 NATO - 5 WARSAW PACT) only briefly operated in 1960.

The actual history of the Conference originates, moreover, with the UN General Assembly resolutions (1722 XVI) (2602 B XXIV) and (A/37/99 K III) which contribute to the gradual expansion in its composition and to the evolution of its structure and functions: the Eighteen nations (ENDC) the 26 of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament (CCD) and the 40 of the Conference on Disarmament (CD).

The first procedural arrangements, from the time of the ENDC, consisted in recommendations coordinated by the co-Chairmen (USA-USSR) and it was Mexico's privilege to initiate a critical review of the foundations of the process of international disarmament. Between 1969 and 1973, the Mexican delegation introduced at least 5 working documents on organizational matters.

The Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral global disarmament body of the international community, recognized and made provision throughout its history for enhanced participation by its own member States and by States not members of the Conference, but participating in its work, in the negotiation of disarmament treaties and other international agreements intended to attract universal adherence.

Some of the more substantive working papers on this issue were produced by the Group of Eight (CD/550), by Sweden (CD/554), by Nigeria (CD/555) and by Mexico (CD/561). The Swedish proposals crystallized in the present articles 33, 34 and 35 of the Rules of Procedure.

Starting from 1976, the Committee on Disarmament and its successor organs, adopted a series of decisions on organizational matters which have, to a certain extent, been codified in the present Rules of Procedure. Quite often, however, the Rules of Procedure, due to their brevity, fail to capture the full scope of the decisions listed below:

- Decision CCD/500 (1 July 1976) on the structure and content of reports, including the annual report to the UN General Assembly. At the same time and during the same 708 CCD meeting, some groundwork was done on the subsidiary bodies being established for the ENMOD Convention and subsequent treaties to be negotiated.

- Decision CCD/532 (21 April 1977). When it appears that there is basis to negotiate a draft treaty, a working group open to CCD members will be established and appropriate documentation will be sent to all member States of the UN.

- At the 69th Plenary meeting on 17 March 1980 (CD/PV.69), it was agreed that representatives of non-member States shall have seats reserved for discussions concerning security assurances and a comprehensive disarmament programme. Such decision preceded the adoption of the Rules of Procedure under the Argentine presidency.

- At the 86th Plenary meeting on 24 June 1980 (CD/PV.86), it was decided that States not members of the Conference may participate in the informal expert meetings on chemical weapons (Denmark, Finland and Switzerland participated in this subsidiary body.

- At the 92nd Plenary meeting on 15 July 1980 (CD/PV.92), it was agreed that States not members of the CD but members of the Ad Hoc Group of Scientific

Experts may participate in the meeting called to examine the Ad Hoc Group's Report.

- At the 575th Plenary meeting on 21 August 1990 (CD/PV.575), it was decided that Rules 7, 9 and 28 of the Rules of Procedure would be amended and action would be taken on the Improved and Effective Functioning of the Conference on Disarmament.

- At the 603rd Plenary meeting on 22 August 1991 (CD/PV.603), the Presidential Statement defined the current practice on participation by States not members of the Conference on Disarmament in the work of the Conference.

Since 1991, there have been few innovations in the CD practice and participation by non-member States in the negotiation of the CTBT has been based on the precedent established by the negotiation of the CWC. Nevertheless, UN General Assembly resolutions and decisions concerning expansion of the Conferences (CD/1356 and CD/1360) would be taken into account when rewriting the Rules of Procedure. In other aspects, such as the relationship to the whole of the UN system and to non-governmental organizations, the CD has been particularly insensitive to the significant developments which have taken place in those fields.

There are many reasons to justify a review of its Rules of Procedure by the Conference on Disarmament. Although the corpus of those rules is substantially sound, many aspects correspond to the "Cold War" concepts which no longer stand unchallenged, such as the notion that the CD is "a disarmament negotiating forum open to the nuclear weapon States and 35 other States". Within such a framework, it is hardly conceivable that the issues of nuclear disarmament may be avoided by the CD. The proposal is made that no specific or separate identity should be attributed to members; that the review process should include the current practice on the matter; and that Rule 3 should be transferred as a "chapeau" Section VII (Conduct of Work and adoption of decisions) where it may find a more congenial home.

Only minor changes affect Section II (Representation and Accreditation). While the authority of the Minister of Foreign Affairs has been maintained, subsequent changes in the composition of delegations may be notified by their respective Heads. This procedure follows the one recently agreed in the CWC. Procedures concerning accreditation of States not members of the CD have been included also in this Section, since they are identical to those applicable to CD member States.

There are no changes ion Section III (Sessions). The contents of Decision CD/1036 concerning intersessional consultations after the end of the annual session have been incorporated at the end of Section IV (Presidency). Section V (Secretariat) remains unchanged.

Order and structure of subsequent Sections VI, VII and VIII have been altered, with the aim to initiate the sequence of the process with the adoption of the Agenda and programme of work; then lay the basic rules for the conduct of work and adoption of decisions, which are of a broader nature and scope than the single rule of consensus; and finally proceed with the more detailed material, practical and organizational aspects of the CD's work. A limited amount of additions refer to preparatory work, consultations and the schedule of activities which should not be ignored in the range of subjects contemplated in the programme of work.

There is, however, a new approach in the proposed opening of negotiating organs or bodies to non-members participating in the work of the Conference when "it clearly appears that there is a basis to negotiate a draft treaty ...". Such approach is tempered by a new rule concerning the application of the CD's Rules of Procedure, or any ad hoc procedure to a subsidiary body whose composition would be larger than the actual CD membership. The flexibility allowed by the present Rule 24 has been adapted to the needs of the new Rule 32, with the intent of reconciling the need for universality in the negotiating process of disarmament treaties and the retention of

sufficient authority by the CD on the conduct of its work.

Section IX (Participation by States not members of the Conference) has been streamlined and updated with the current practice of the Conference following the Presidential Statement of 1991. As is known, present Rules 32 and 36 reflect the concept of shared responsibility and the inherent right of every State member of the UN to participate in disarmament affairs (Paragraph 28 of the Final Document of the I Extraordinary Period of Sessions of the UGA); the identity of the procedures of accreditation for members and non members alike and the concern to allow sufficient space for non-members in plenary and other meetings reminds us that, as a matter of principle, the right to attend the CD plenaries belongs to every State member of the UN.

Such right may be exercised at any time and is not subject to any CD decision. Nevertheless, specific modalities for participation of non-member States are set out under Rules 33 to 35. Under the final paragraph of Decision CD/1036, the Secretariat is called upon to inform non-member States before the beginning of the annual session of the Conference's opening date, in order to enable interested States to formulate their requests in time for participation in the work of the Conference and its subsidiary bodies. The Secretariat performs this duty with a perfunctionary reference to Rules 33 to 35 which the actual practice of the Conference has made obsolete or inapplicable.

Rules 33 and 34 are now obsolete since it is not practical to restrict discussions concerning issues raised by documents or proposals introduced by non-members; or to follow more of less elaborate procedures in order to grant requests for oral interventions by those non-members. Rule 35 has also evolved in the context of the Presidential Statement of 1991 and a decision ad casus is no longer taken, being replaced by a single decision allowing for broad participation of the requesting State in all meetings. While an attempt is made to codify actual practice in matters concerning participation, the need to clearly distinguish such modalities of participation from the right of any State to attend CD Plenaries has been preserved and further spelled out.

No changes have been introduced in Section X (Languages, records and documents). It is true that CD decisions have dealt, to a certain extent, with the modalities of CD communiques. Although we have, in some instances, introduced language from CD decisions which had not been included in the present Rules of Procedure, we have refrained from doing so in this specific matter, considering that the actual practice and prerogatives of CD Presidents may lead towards a more flexible path. However, this issue is linked to that of verbatim records and the CD Report, and may deserve further attention.

Sections XI (Invitations to organs of the UN system) and XII (Non-governmental organizations) have been redrafted. The first one, in order to introduce appropriate hierarchy and purpose and respond better to the intent of the heading, duly taking into account the realities of the international disarmament regime; the second, in order to recognize, in a prudent but more realistic manner, the importance of NGO's in disarmament affairs, an issue which the CD has addressed recently but in an inconclusive way.

Changes in Section XIII (Reports to the United Nations General Assembly) do not affect the existing structure of the Section but incorporate elements which contribute to stress the continuity in CD work. Section XIV (Amendments) remains untouched.

Except for a slight reformulation of Rule 21 (new Rule 27) no attempt has been made to modify the rule of consensus. We are attracted to the proposal by the former Representative of Japan to introduce a distinction between matters of substance and matters of procedure. The Representative of Mexico has mentioned an old proposal by the G-21 in that direction., But the rule of consensus is enshrined in the actual text of the Rules of Procedure, in an interpretative statement and rooted in the tradition of CD practice. Performance of other bodies, such as the Meeting of the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Parties, which also operate under the rule of consensus but very seldom explicitly veto a proposal, should be closely studied and analyzed.

The Chilean Delegation is introducing this modified draft of the Rules of Procedure as a basis for future discussion in the CD, and as a contribution to the work entrusted to the Coordinator appointed for the Improved and effective Functioning of the Conference on Disarmament.

PROPOSED DRAFT

RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE CONFERENCE

ON DISARMAMENT

INTRODUCTION

These Rules of Procedure were adopted taking into account the relevant provisions of the final document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, including the agreement reached following appropriate consultations among the member States during that session which the General Assembly welcomed in the final Document. They have been subsequently reviewed following the expansion of the membership of the Conference on disarmament and the further development of procedures with a view to facilitate and enhance participation of States not members of the Conference, independent experts and other organs of the United Nations system.

I. Functions and Membership.

1. The Conference on disarmament (hereinafter referred to as the Conference) is the single multilateral global disarmament negotiating body of the international community.

2. The membership of the Conference includes the (sixty) (sixty-one) countries listed in anne I. *

3. The membership of the Conference will be reviewed at regular intervals following the presentation of progress reports by the President of the Conference at the end of its annual session. The results of the review process shall be included in the report submitted to the United Nations General Assembly.

II. Representation and accreditation

4. (Idem to present 4)

5. Each delegation shall be accredited by a letter on the authority of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the member State, addressed to the President of the Conference. Subsequent changes in the composition of delegations to the Conference may be notified to the President of the Conference by their respective Heads.

6. The provisions of Rules 3 and 4 shall apply to the delegations of States not members of the Conference participating in its annual session.

7. (Idem to present 6).

8. Delegations of States not members of the Conference shall be seated following the English alphabetical list, beginning with the non-member whose name will be drawn by lots by the President of the Conference and shall rotate at the same time as the States members of the Conference.

III. Sessions

9. (Idem to present 7).

10. (Idem to present 8).

IV. Presidency

11. (Idem to present 9).

12. (Idem to present 10).

13. (Idem to present 11).

14. (Idem to present 12).

15. The representative of the member State who presided over the last plenary meeting at the end of the annual session of the Conference and the representative of the member State assuming the Presidency next in order of rotation shall jointly conduct consultations during the inter-sessional period between the two annual sessions in order to facilitate consensus on the adoption of the agenda, the establishment of subsidiary bodies and their mandates.

V. Secretariat

16. (Idem to present 13).

17. (Idem to present 14).

18. (Idem to present 15).

19. (Idem to present 16).

VI. Agenda and programme of work.

20. At the beginning of each annual session, the Conference shall adopt its agenda for the year. In doing so, the Conference shall take into account the recommendations made to it by the General Assembly, the proposals presented by member States of the Conference and the decisions of the Conference, as well as any preparatory work done to that end during its previous session and the results of the consultations carried on intersessionally in conformity with Rule 15.

21. On the basis of its agenda, the Conference, at the beginning of its annual session, shall establish its programme of work which will include a schedule of its activities to that session, structures to indicate with flexibility the range of subjects to which references would primarily be made in plenaries, taking also into account the recommendations, proposals, decisions, as well as the preparatory work and the consultations referred to in Rules 15 and 20.

22. (Idem to present 29).

23. The subject of statements made in plenary meetings will normally correspond to the topic then under discussion in accordance with the agreed programme of work and schedule of its activities for the current annual session. However, it is the right of any member State of the Conference to raise any subject relevant to the work of the Conference at any plenary meeting and to have full opportunity of presenting its views on any subject which it may consider to merit attention.

24. (Idem to present 31).

VII. Conduct of work and adoption of decisions.

25. (Idem to present 3).

26. (Idem to present 18).

27. If consensus is not attainable when an item comes up for decision, the Conference shall consider the subsequent examination of that item and make every effort to facilitate the achievement of consensus (Reformulation of Rule 21).

28. (Idem to present 25).

VIII. Organization of the work.

29. (Idem to present 19).

30. The Conference may decide to establish such subsidiary bodies as it deems necessary for the effective performance of its functions. The Conference shall define the mandate for each subsidiary body and provide appropriate support for its work.

31. In case of absence of consensus on the establishment of any particular subsidiary body or its mandate, and after the expiration of the time allocated to debate the relevant proposal for such a subsidiary group or its mandate, the President of the Conference shall proceed to identify a Special Coordinator or a Friend of the Chair to assist in carrying out informal consultations with a view to reaching consensus.

32. Whenever the Conference deems its advisable, including when it clearly appears that there is a basis to negotiate a draft treaty or other texts or agreements requiring universal adherence, the Conference may decide that the negotiating organs or bodies be opened, in addition to all States members of the Conference, to States not members but participating in the work of the Conference.

33. The Conference may then decide if its own rules of procedure may be adapted to the specific requirement of a subsidiary body, taking into account i.a. the circumstances contemplated in the preceding rule.

34. (Idem to present 26).

IX. Participation by States not members of the Conference.

35. Representatives of States not members of the Conference may attend plenary meetings and, if the Conference so decides, other meetings.

36. The Conference may invite States not members of the Conference, on request, to participate in its work. Unless decided otherwise by the Conference, these States may participate in plenary meetings, informal plenary meetings on substantive items of the agenda, and meetings of subsidiary bodies established in accordance with Rule 30, without having to specify in advance which ones.

37. The Secretariat shall inform States not members of the Conference before the commencement of each annual session of the Conference's opening date, in order to enable interested States to attend the plenary meetings if they so wish, and to formulate in a timely manner their requests for participation in the work of the Conference and its subsidiary bodies.

38. Interested States not members of the Conference may submit to the Conference written proposals or working documents on measures of disarmament that are subject to negotiations in the Conference.

39. States not members of the Conference may express their views in the plenary pursuant to the established list of speakers. When the particular concerns of a State not member of the Conference are under discussion in any of its organs or subsidiary bodies, the Conference shall invite that State as soon as it has taken cognizance of a request to that effect.

X. Languages, records and documents.

40. (Idem to present 37).

41. (Idem to present 38).

42. (Idem to present 39).

43. (Idem to present 40).

XI. Invitations to organs of the United Nations system.

44. The Conference may decide to invite the UNIDIR and other organs of the United Nations system, the IAEA as well as specialized agencies, and the secretariats of the appropriate bodies of disarmament organizations and agreements to provide information which may benefit its work.

XII. Non-governmental Organizations.

45. Non-governmental organizations may circulate documents and address communications to the Conference. The Secretariat shall periodically update and circulate a list of such documents and communications.

XIII. Reports to the United Nations General Assembly

46. (Idem to present 43).

47. (Idem to present 44).

48. All reports of the Conference shall be factual and fully reflect the negotiations and the work of the Conference.

48. Unless the Conference decides otherwise, the annual report shall contain i.a. :

a) (idem to present a of 45).
b) " " " b " "
c) " " " c " "
d) " " " d " "
e) " " " e " "
f) working papers and proposals submitted during the year, with reference to items comprised in a. en b. above and other matters raised in the Conference during the year.
g) Verbatim records of the meetings held during the year, to be included in a separate Anne.
h) Any preparatory work done by the Conference on the agenda of the following year.
i) (idem to present h of 45).

XIV. Amendments

50. (Idem to present 47)

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1474
27 August 1997

Original: ENGLISH

CHILE, POLAND

Anti-personnel Landmines

1. We express our recognition and support to the objectives of humanitarian nature pursued by the "Ottawa process", which encompasses the concern of the international community for eliminating anti-personnel landmines, thus reducing the great number of innocent people who fall every year a victim of this type of weapons.

2. We think that the Convention which, as an outcome of this process, will be adopted by the Oslo Conference, would contribute to the achievement of this noble objective.

3. At the same time we are convinced that the subject of anti-personnel landmines includes important aspects which can best be addressed by the specialized negotiating forum of the Conference on Disarmament.

We believe that the Conference on Disarmament through the consideration and negotiation of agreements complementary to, consistent with and mutually supportive of the one to be concluded in Ottawa, can make a significant contribution to reaching the goals of the United Nations on this matter.

We agree that achieving universal support for such a goal should be a paramount objective, the attainment of which is possible through a negotiating process in which due consideration can be given to national security concerns of involved parties.

4. It was with this in mind that we made a proposal to the Conference, on 27 March 1997, that led to the appointment of a Special Coordinator to hold consultations on a possible mandate for negotiations at the Conference on Disarmament on the question of anti-personnel landmines. We commend him for his diligent work so far. Given the short period which he has had available for his consultations, and the need to take account of work proceeding on this issue outside the Conference on Disarmament, it is clear that he will not be in a position to present his final recommendations to the Conference before the end of this year's session. We would, therefore, strongly support the continuation of his consultations during the intersessional period and the presentation of a final report at the start of the 1998 session of the Conference on Disarmament.

GE.97-63906

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1475
9 September 1997

ENGLISH
Original: SPANISH

MEXICO

Statement on the question of consultations by the Special Coordinator on anti-personnel landmines in the Conference on Disarmament

The delegation of Mexico wishes to state that in the opinion of the Mexican Government, the consultations by the Special Coordinator on anti-personnel landmines constitute a procedural matter and do not form part of the substantive work of the Conference on Disarmament.

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